

## Overview

Trees are a treasured asset in Folsom and have widespread value and benefits to our community. Specifically, trees...

- Create a visually distinctive natural setting
- Increase property values
- Save energy
- Intercept rainfall and reduce storm water runoff and soil erosion
- Absorb pollutants and improve air quality

Our current tree preservation ordinance is more than 20 years old. Staff and stakeholders have identified several issues and challenges with interpreting and implementing the current code.

Folsom's new 2035 General Plan outlines policies for tree preservation, planting of native species, as well as tree planting for shade, community beautification, and to reduce the heat island effect.

The update will address gaps, ambiguities and incorporate current best management practices so that we have more tools in our toolbelts to help protect/preserve trees in Folsom.

## Problems to Address

1. Lack of clear and common understanding/definition of regulated activities.
2. Expansion of regulated activities to address maintenance (e.g., pruning), removal and replacement/mitigation for required parking lot shade and street trees.
3. Lack of reference to or incorporation of best management practices and standards for tree preservation.

## Planned Ordinance Update Process

This is a staff-initiated effort to address issues/concerns with implementation and violations (which includes input from residents, arborists, developers and property managers over time).

We've engaged a consultant (Provost and Prichard) experienced with this type of work throughout California to assist with research, community engagement, and drafting of modifications.

We'll start by talking with a variety of stakeholders and hosting a community workshop to outline initial issues/concerns, summarize research findings, and request any additional input about problems that should be solved with the update. (April 25<sup>th</sup> 2019)

Working with our consultant team, we'll identify potential solutions, draft proposed changes to the Tree Preservation Ordinance (in track changes) and invite public review and comments. (May/June 2019)

With public input, we'll either incorporate additional revisions and/or report those public inputs to the City Council for public hearing, direction, and action. (June/July 2019)