

Goleta City Council Approves Urban Forest Management Plan

The Goleta City Council approved the Goleta Urban Forest Management Plan at their 6/7/11 meeting. The Goleta Community Development Department staff contracted with the non-profit urban forestry organization Goleta Valley Beautiful to assist in the preparation of the Plan. The Plan includes a number of policies that reflect the current state of the art in urban forestry, including policies that recognize the soil volume requirements of different types of trees, canopy coverage objectives, and urban wood reuse objectives, among others.

The California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection provided the \$80,000 funding for the Plan with financing from Proposition 40. The City of Goleta and Goleta Valley Beautiful also provided \$109,854 local matching funding in support of the Plan.

The four year process in the development of the Plan included two major supporting documents, including The State of the Goleta Urban Forest, and the Goleta Urban Forest Guidelines Report. The State of the Goleta Urban Forest provided a snapshot of the current conditions of the Goleta urban forest. The Guidelines report examined the issues of the urban forest management planning effort in greater depth, and reviewed the state of the practice for urban forest management plans.

While the Goleta Urban Forest Management Plan provides extensive directives to City staff for administrative procedures, the next step in the Plan will be to enact ordinances to codify specific policies, such as the creation of a tree advisory board and a heritage tree protection ordinance. The final draft of the Plan is undergoing final formatting revisions, but a copy of the version acted upon by the City Council can be found at www.CityofGoleta.org on the 6/7/11 Council Agenda Item G2.

Prepared by
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