

LOS ANGELES URBAN FORESTRY MANAGEMENT PLAN SURVEY

HOW YOU CAN HELP

The City of Los Angeles is in the initial stages of developing a framework as the first step for an Urban Forest Management Plan (UFMP) funded by a grant from CAL FIRE.

A draft of the framework is expected to be done in December of 2018. To ensure this plan considers and incorporates resident opinions and priorities, a public survey has been developed for your voice to be heard.

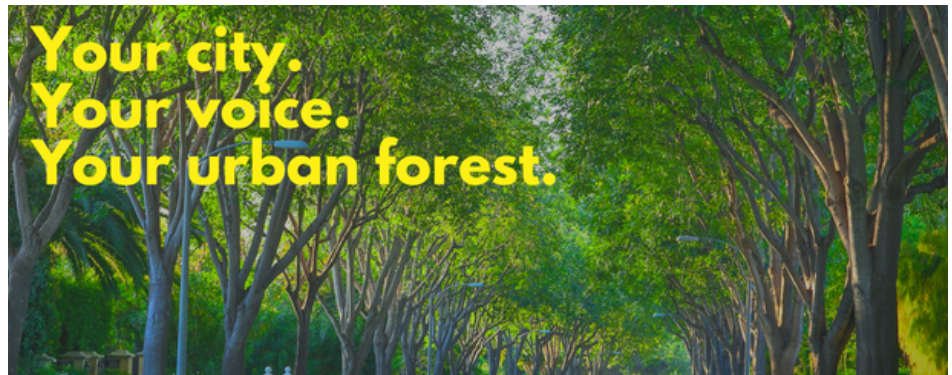
Therefore, we invite you to take action and complete this survey by July 15, 2018:

Survey Link in English:

<https://airtable.com/shrntouqEUjjw3D3y>

Survey Link in Spanish:

<https://airtable.com/shrWMmwfokNAZ3m3R>



What is an Urban Forest and Why is It So Important?

An urban forest can be broadly defined as a network of all the publicly and privately-owned trees and forests in and around cities. At its core, the urban forest functions as a holistic infrastructure system that connects, supports, nourishes and optimizes the health and functionality of the surrounding ecosystem, including the countless ways humans rely, often unwittingly, upon the critical benefits and services it provides.

The urban forest could be the most cost-effective nature-based solution to protect and support the County and its people from the impacts of climate change. According to a study conducted across five cities in the western United States, for every dollar invested in urban forest management, benefits returned annually ranged from \$1.37 to \$3.09. Planning and managing the urban forest strategically can mitigate climate threats by:

- Reducing the urban heat island effect
- Advancing a clean, local water supply
- Reducing polluted stormwater runoff and flooding
- Improving air quality
- Sequestering carbon
- Producing food
- Conserving energy
- Enhancing wildlife habitat
- Improving human health and wellbeing

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On top of all these life-sustaining benefits and ecosystem services, the urban forest also provides a pathway to greater social cohesion and potentially tens of thousands of local green jobs in planning, implementation and adaptive management and care.

Why We Need an Urban Forestry Management Plan (UFMP)?

It is time for the City of Los Angeles to make a shift, and there is mounting momentum to make it happen. Efforts have been building to better recognize, understand and utilize the full potential of urban forests at different levels at home and abroad. At the international level, the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the United Nations published the first global Guidelines on Urban and Peri-urban Forestry in 2016 which aims to provide a reference framework with specific policy and management recommendations for decision-makers and urban planners to strategically plan, design and manage their urban forests and trees towards a sustainable future (FAO, 2016). At the national level, the National Urban and Community Forestry Advisory Council (NUCFAC) released the 2016-2026 Ten Year Urban Forestry Action Plan in 2015. The mission of this 10-year Action Plan is to help all communities create urban and community forests that are diverse, healthy and accessible for all citizens (U.S. Forest Service, 2015). At the local level, cities are embracing urban forest strategies (e.g., London, UK; Melbourne, Australia; and Vancouver, Canada) as well as urban forest management plans (e.g., Santa Monica, CA; San Francisco, CA; and Seattle, WA) to protect, sustain, and manage urban forests. Recently, New York City, the most populous city in the United States, finished its first long-term, strategic and comprehensive urban forestry management plan, Forest Management Framework for New York City, to bolster and protect its vital urban forests (Pregitzer, et al., 2018).

Unfortunately, LA's urban forest is often seen by some stakeholders primarily as a street or park amenity, simply adding beauty to neighborhoods. The real infrastructure value of the urban forest is not fully recognized and, therefore, does not receive sufficient funding, policy protections, physical space or maintenance so that it can thrive and protect the lives and health of people. An Urban Forest Management Plan (UFMP) is urgently needed to fully realize the potential of LA's urban forest and to harness the wealth and size of the forest to work with nature in meeting the challenges of the changing climate.