



CITY OF CARMEL-BY-THE-SEA

Monthly Report

June 2018

Public Works Department

TO:	Honorable Mayor and City Council Members
SUBMITTED BY:	Michael Branson, City Forester
SUBMITTED ON:	July 16, 2018
APPROVED BY:	Chip Rerig, City Administrator

JUNE 2018 FORESTER REPORT

Forest and Beach Commission:

The June meeting of the Forest and Beach Commission was canceled. Next meeting is on July 12, 2018.

Carmel Beach:

Public Works/Forestry staff continues weekday cleaning of the 9 smokeless fire pits and monitoring for problems, which continue to be frequent. Staff also continued weekly cleanings and picking up litter left by visitors or washed up on shore. Also, all essential structural repairs were completed on the Scenic Pathway beach stairs. Minor repairs will continue.

Trees:

On-call tree service contractors and public works staff pruned three large trees and removed 11 dead or hazardous trees within the City. John Ley's Tree Service continued to water 86 trees planted by the Friends of Carmel Forest and completed grinding of 9 tree stumps. Public Works only planted three new trees in June due to seasonal maintenance priorities such as weed whacking and beach cleanups. One replacement tree was planted near the Carl Cherry Foundation where someone had hacked down a young Monterey pine.

Also, updated contract documents and technical specifications were prepared for the City to retain a pool of full-service, on-call tree contractors, and the contract was advertised for bids. The new contracts will have better enforcement tools, such as financial penalties if a contractor cannot complete a task order in the authorized time.

Mission Trail Nature Preserve (MTNP):

Public Works staff mowed three fuel breaks around the Martin Meadow near the Flanders mansion with a final mowing scheduled to occur by early August. For years the City mowed the meadow in late spring once the endangered Hickman's onion had dispersed its seeds for the year, but without regard for other plant species in the area. In 2016 the City retained a biologist to prepare a Biological Assessment Report for the MTNP to guide our maintenance practices and projects. The report outlined a couple of strategies to continue protection of the onion and promote the reproduction of other native plants that comprise the meadow. This two-pronged mowing program strives to balance a unique environmental resource in MTNP with those of public safety regarding fire risk. City staff have observed an increase in the number and variety of wildflowers growing in the meadow as a result of this mowing strategy. The Friends of MTNP held their monthly work day clearing non-native plants and near the upper end of the Serra Trail.

In addition, staff negotiated a work order with the City's on-call environmental consultant, Dudek, to prepare a Streambed Stability report for the stream running through the MTNP. This report will serve as the basis for prioritizing future projects which will protect the MTNP from erosion or flooding. The projects will also be cross-referenced to federal and/or state regulatory permits needed to complete these projects.

North Dunes:

In the North Dunes Habitat Restoration Area, 650 feet of new cable and rod fencing was installed by Public Works staff to keep people from entering sensitive habitat areas identified by project biologist, Joey Canepa. Another 600 feet will be installed later this summer along the northern and western boundaries.

TREE ACTIVITY DATA **June 2018**

CITY ACTIVITY:

	Upper Canopy	Lower Canopy	June Total	Totals to Date (2018)	Total Trees Last Year (2017)
Removals	9	2	11	103	174
Plantings	3	0	3	49	52

Trees under care by City	163
Trees under care - replaced	1
Trees Planted by the Friends of Carmel Forest	99

PRIVATE ACTIVITY:

	Permits Issued	Permits to Date (2018)	Permits Last Year (2017)		Upper Canopy Trees	Lower Canopy Trees	June Tree Total	Total Trees to Date (2018)	Total Trees Last Year (2017)
Removal Permits	12	47	90		3	9	12	59	119
Planting Requirement	4	14	37		0	4	4	14	43
Pruning Permits	1	13	29		1	0	1	13	35

Note: Many permits include multiple trees, so permits issued, planting, and tree totals may not be equal.

CONSTRUCTION ACTIVITY:

	Permits Issued	Permits to Date (2018)	Permits Last Year (2017)		Upper Canopy Trees	Lower Canopy Trees	June Tree Total	Total Trees to Date (2018)	Total Trees Last Year (2017)
Removal Permits	1	6	19		1	0	1	9	34
Planting Requirement	1	2	7		1	1	2	4	10
Pruning Permits	0	2	9		0	0	0	1	6

Note: Many permits include multiple trees, so permits issued, planting, and tree totals may not be equal.