



CITY OF CARMEL-BY-THE-SEA

Monthly Report

Public Works Department Report – December 2020

TO: Honorable Mayor and City Council Members

SUBMITTED BY: Robert Harary, P.E., Director of Public Works

SUBMITTED ON: December 31, 2020

APPROVED BY: Chip Rerig, City Administrator

City Council Meeting of December 7, 2020

- Carmel Cares gave a presentation about the mutually beneficial public/private partnership with Public Works and noted the success of various projects and generous donations for the City.
- Approved a \$10,000 Amendment to the Professional Services Agreement with Native Solutions to allow dune biologist Joey Canepa to continue work in the North Dunes Habitat.
- SiteLogiQ was authorized to proceed with a no-cost, energy audit of all City-owned buildings and facilities to identify cost-savings and greenhouse gas mitigation measures.

Forest and Beach Commission Meeting of December 10, 2020

- Received a presentation from the Monterey Fire Chief regarding fire prevention strategies and response resources for Pescadero Canyon.
- Received a presentation from the Environmental Programs Manager regarding progress made to date with the Climate Action Committee.
- Approved the removal of 5 of 6 trees requested to be removed on Casanova Street, 5 SE of Twelfth Avenue, in accordance with a Tree Management Plan prepared for the site.
- Requested more information from an applicant before making a decision regarding a magnolia tree that is causing minor damage to a planter wall and patio.

Climate Action Committee Meeting of December 17, 2020

- Received a presentation from a United States Geological Survey scientist regarding coastal storm modeling and shoreline impacts expected due to sea level rise.
- Received a presentation from the Public Works Director regarding the City's new Storm Drain Master Plan. The Plan concluded that our drainage system was designed for only 10-year (versus 20-year) storms. Approximately \$9.9M is needed to repair the system and remove bottlenecks to properly convey 10-year storms. Without repairs, 10-year storms will continue to cause minor flooding in a several areas of the City. Storms are expected to be 17% stronger by 2045. A 50-year storm would cause moderate to significant flooding and damage, especially in the northeast/downtown area and through the Mission Trail Nature Preserve to discharge into the Carmel River.

Public Works Department Report – December 2020

The Public Works Team's Highlights of 2020

Despite Covid-19's shelter in place orders, quarantines, and numerous day-to-day safety measures, and despite a few painful layoffs, a drastic decrease to the department's operating budget, and defunding of all capital improvement projects, we were still able to accomplish several important projects, as listed in this year's highlights:

1. Developed a new public/private partnership with Carmel Cares, who, among other things, is volunteering to restore the Scenic Pathway, Forest Theater, and Vista Lobos Park, donating various maintenance tools, a John Deere Gator truck for watering, a sidewalk scrubber machine, and much more. www.carmelcares.org
2. Constructed the new Gathering Room in the Harrison Memorial Library.
3. Continued to work with the Friends of Mission Trail Nature Preserve to remove additional dead and invasive trees, weeds and fire fuel, while completing the renovation of the Doolittle Trail.
4. Resumed vehicle maintenance tasks in-house for the first time since the 1990s, which reduced expenses versus sending vehicles out for routine maintenance and minor repairs.
5. Replaced 60-year old, obsolete boilers at Sunset Center.
6. In the North Dunes, removed a significant quantity of weeds and invasive plants, pruned trees, installed more post and cable railing, and presented the restoration project progress to the Council and Commissions.
7. Installed dual trash/recycling cans with decorative, metal ribbon in portions of the downtown.
8. Saved a tentative layoff position by rejecting high bids received for landscape maintenance services and doing those tasks ourselves, with more care, while saving funds.
9. Replaced the roof on the Scout House, partially funded by a grant.
10. Completed the City's first Storm Drain Master Plan, which identified deficiencies in the drainage system, repairs needed, and bottlenecks which cause flooding.
11. Made notable progress on the Climate Action and Adaptation Project.
12. Obtained rigging equipment which enables City crews to remove mid-sized and some taller dead or diseased trees (versus removing only smaller trees as in prior years).
13. Installed, at no cost to the City, three new, dual electric vehicle chargers in the Sunset Center north parking lot, raising the total number of simultaneous charges to 11 vehicles.
14. Made progress on ADA upgrades in bathrooms and installed ADA-compliant railings in Devendorf Park.

Public Works Department Report – December 2020

Public Works Administration

- Senior Facilities Maintenance Worker, Leo Hernandez, completed four months of National Guard training in Missouri and came back a soldier.
- Completed documentation required for the Measure X funding audit by TAMC.
- Coordinated with TAMC requesting a waiver of installing regional wayfinding signs made of metal and seeking equivalent funds to make similarly worded signs made of wood.
- Posted public meeting notices along Scenic and San Antonio regarding the January 5th hearing about the potential for intermittent closures along Scenic for recreational purposes.
- Coordinated with Human Resources regarding more restrictive Covid-19 lockdown procedures. Several employees had to be quarantined due to out of state travel.

Environmental Programs

- Oversaw removal of a total of 80 yard-waste bags full of invasive weeds, ice plant, and dead brush from the North Dunes Habitat Restoration Area, thanks to volunteers.
- Submitted planning application to allow for the conversion of 7 area lights in the Sunset Center north parking lot into energy-efficient LED lights.
- Unfortunately, the City's contamination rate of non-recyclable materials dumped into the blue recycling containers increased from 16% last year to 24% this year. More education coming.
- Coordinated with Friends of Carmel Forest to remove a conventional planter at the NW corner of Monte Verde and Seventh Ave., and install a demonstration rain garden/percolation pit.
- Notified citizens that effective January 1, 2021, pressure treated wood must be disposed of in a Class I Hazardous Waste landfill.

Facility Maintenance

- Supported the Community Activities Department with installation of holiday lighting along the Ocean Avenue median islands and in and surrounding Devendorf Park.
- Coordinated with Carmel Cares to reconstruct the entrance gate to Forest Theater.
- Received donation of small and larger diameter plumbing snakes from Carmel Cares.
- Coordinated with a vendor to inspect and re-certify the City's fire extinguishers.
- Supervised repairs of roll-up doors, door buzzers, alarms, a security door, and others.

Street Maintenance

- Received a Sidewalk Scrubbing machine from Carmel Cares. Training took place inside the Public Works Garage which now has a shiny concrete floor.
- Completed the annual storm drain inspections and began the annual sidewalk inspections.
- Repaired pathway and fencing along Fourth Avenue down to the beach access stairs.
- Continued removing piles of ivy, weeds, and debris from the MTNP.
- Stripped obsolete Fire Vehicle 6485 of all special equipment and sold at auction.
- Coordinated multiple repairs of the street sweeper and clutch repair of the wood chipper.
- Held the annual cleanup of the Public Works facility, including organizing the tool room and yard/storage areas. The brave also cleaned out their work vehicles.

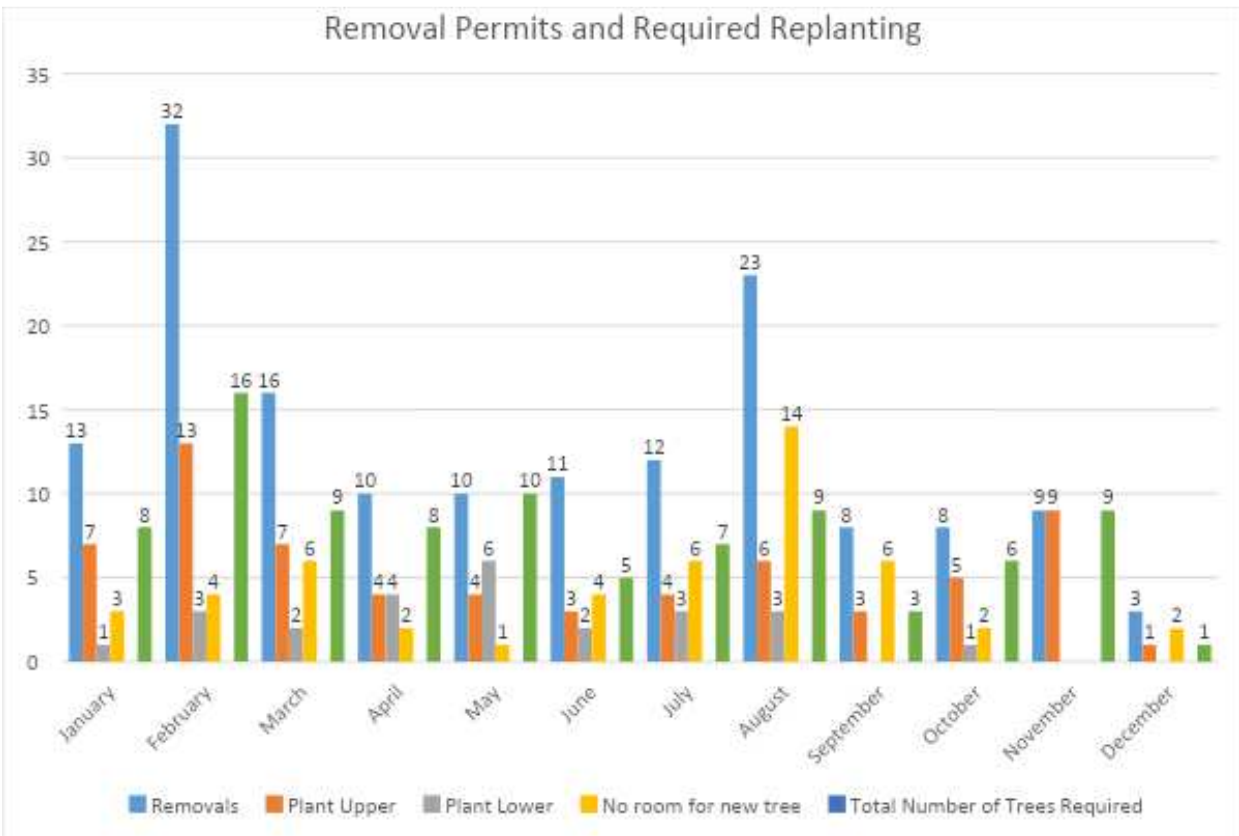
Forestry, Parks and Beach (Forester's Report)

- Carmel Cares continued to cleanup and weed the Scenic Pathway, Vista Lobos Park, Forest Theater, and various medians.
- No Stop Work Orders were issued in December.
- No notable failures occurred in December.

Public Works Department Report – December 2020

- 2,646 trees have been inventoried in the TreeKeeper program as of December 29, 2020. Staff is inventorying trees as work and inspections are performed.
- Armillaria root rot was noted in the fruiting stage after rain in late December. This is a significant pathogen in the urban forest.

Private and Development Activities

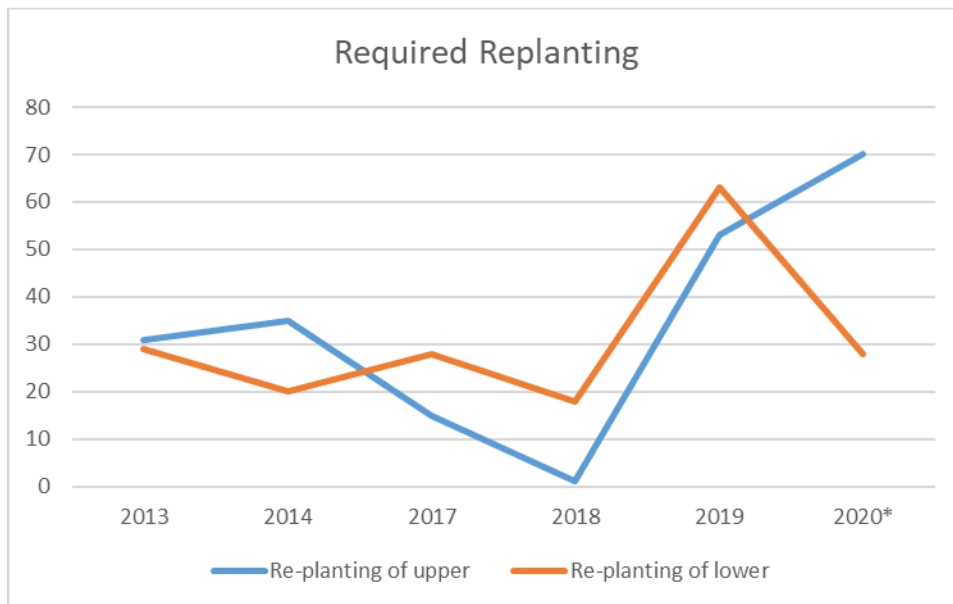


2020 Permitted Removals and Required Planting					
	Removals	Plant Upper	Plant Lower	No Room for New Tree	Total Number of Trees Required
January	13	7	1	3	8
February	32	13	3	4	16
March	16	7	2	6	9
April	10	4	4	2	8
May	10	4	6	1	10
June	11	3	2	4	5
July	12	4	3	6	7
August	23	6	3	14	9
September	8	3	0	6	3
October	8	5	1	2	6
November	9	9	0	0	9

Public Works Department Report – December 2020

December	3	1	0	2		1
2020 Totals	155	66	25	50		91

Historic Permitted Removals and Required Planting							
	Removal Permits	Removal Upper	Removal Lower	Replanting Required	Replanting Upper	Replanting Lower	Replanting %
2012	96			20			20.83%
2013	123	60	63	59	31	29	47.97%
2014	145	64	81	49	35	20	33.79%
2016	90			37			41.11%
2017	119	50	69	43	15	28	36.13%
2018	77	37	60	20	1	18	25.97%
2019	170	107	63	116	53	63	68.24%
2020	175	57	41	120	67	26	68.57%



City Forestry, Parks, and Beach Activities

City Tasks December 2020	
Work Type	Count
Inspections	33
Prunings	4
Removals	3
Failures	0
Plantings	3

Public Works Department Report – December 2020

