



CITY OF CARMEL-BY-THE-SEA FOREST AND BEACH COMMISSION

Sarah Berling, Kelly Brezoczky, Tamara Michie, Harry
Ross, and Neal Rutta

All meetings are held in the City Council Chambers
East Side of Monte Verde Street
Between Ocean and 7th Avenues

REGULAR MEETING Thursday, July 10, 2025

MEETING 2:30 PM

AMENDED AGENDA

TOUR 2:00 PM

TOUR OF INSPECTION

Prior to calling the meeting to order, the Board/Commission will conduct an on-site tour of inspection of the properties listed on the agenda and the public is welcome to join. After the tour is complete, the Board/Commission will begin the meeting in the City Council Chambers no earlier than the time noted on the agenda.

A. Upper Forest Hill Park, Tennis/Pickelball Courts, Across from 3055 Lorca Lane

THIS MEETING WILL BE HELD IN PERSON AND VIA TELECONFERENCE. The public is welcome to attend the meeting in person or remotely via Zoom, however, the meeting will proceed as normal even if there are technical difficulties accessing zoom. The City will do its best to resolve any technical issues as quickly as possible. To view or listen to the meeting from home, you may watch the Youtube Live Stream at:

<https://www.youtube.com/@CityofCarmelbytheSea/streams>, or use the link below to view or listen to the meeting via Zoom teleconference:

<https://ci-carmel-ca-us.zoom.us/j/81491020339> Webinar ID: 814 9102 0339 Passcode: 603597 Dial in: (253) 215-8782

HOW TO OFFER PUBLIC COMMENT: Public comment may be given in person at the meeting, or using the Zoom teleconference module, provided that there is access to Zoom during the meeting. Zoom comments will be taken after the in-person comments. The public can also email comments to yculver@ci.carmel.ca.us. Comments must be received 2 hours before the meeting in order to be provided to the legislative body. Comments received after that time and up to the beginning of the meeting will be made part of the record.

CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

EXTRAORDINARY BUSINESS

- A.** Election of the Commission Chair and Vice-Chair
- B.** Forest and Beach Commission Goals

ANNOUNCEMENTS

PUBLIC APPEARANCES - Under the Brown Act, public comment for matters on the agenda must relate to that agenda item and public comments for matters not on the agenda must relate to the subject matter jurisdiction of this legislative body. Hateful, violent, and threatening speech is impermissible public comment as it disrupts the conduct of the public meeting. This is a warning that if a member of the public attending this meeting remotely violates the Brown Act by failing to comply with these requirements of the Brown Act the meeting, then that speaker will be muted.

Members of the public are entitled to speak on matters of municipal concern not on the agenda during Public Appearances. Each person's comments shall be limited to 3 minutes, or as otherwise established by the Commission. Matters not appearing on Commission's agenda will not receive action at this meeting but may be referred to staff for a future meeting. Persons are not required to give their names, but it is helpful for speakers to state their names so that they may be identified in the minutes of the meeting.

CONSENT AGENDA

Items on the consent agenda are routine in nature and do not require discussion or independent action. Members of the Commission or the public may ask that any items be considered individually for purposes of Commission discussion and/ or for public comment. Unless that is done, one motion may be used to adopt all recommended actions.

- 1. Public Works Director's Report for June 2025

ORDERS OF BUSINESS

Orders of Business are agenda items that require City Council, Board or Commission discussion, debate, direction to staff, and/or action.

- 2. Receive a presentation on Construction Related Tree Fines and provide feedback
- 3. June 2025 Forester's Report

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

ADJOURNMENT

This agenda was posted at City Hall, Monte Verde Street between Ocean Avenue and 7th Avenue, Harrison Memorial Library, located on the NE corner of Ocean Avenue and Lincoln Street, the Carmel-by-the-Sea Post Office, 5th Avenue between Dolores Street and San Carlos Street, and the City's webpage <http://www.ci.carmel.ca.us> in accordance with applicable legal requirements.

SUPPLEMENTAL MATERIAL RECEIVED AFTER THE POSTING OF THE AGENDA

Any supplemental writings or documents distributed to a majority of the Forest & Beach Commission regarding any item on this agenda, received after the posting of the agenda will be available at the Public Works Department located on the east side of Junipero Street between Fourth and Fifth Avenues during normal business hours.

SPECIAL NOTICES TO PUBLIC

In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, if you need special assistance to participate in this meeting, please contact the City Clerk's Office at 831-620-2000 at least 48 hours prior to the meeting to ensure that reasonable arrangements can be made to provide accessibility to the meeting (28CFR 35.102-35.104 ADA Title II).



CITY OF CARMEL-BY-THE-SEA FOREST AND BEACH COMMISSION Staff Report

July 10, 2025
EXTRAORDINARY BUSINESS

TO: Forest and Beach Commissioners

SUBMITTED BY: Yvette Culver, Administrative Coordinator

SUBJECT: Election of the Commission Chair and Vice-Chair

RECOMMENDATION:

Commission vote and elect a new Chair and Vice Chair

BACKGROUND/SUMMARY:

FISCAL IMPACT:

None at this time

ATTACHMENTS:



CITY OF CARMEL-BY-THE-SEA FOREST AND BEACH COMMISSION Staff Report

July 10, 2025
EXTRAORDINARY BUSINESS

TO: Forest and Beach Commissioners

SUBMITTED BY: Justin Ono, City Forester

SUBJECT: Forest and Beach Commission Goals

RECOMMENDATION:

Commission discuss their goals for future agenda items.

BACKGROUND/SUMMARY:

FISCAL IMPACT:

None at this time.

ATTACHMENTS:



CITY OF CARMEL-BY-THE-SEA FOREST AND BEACH COMMISSION Staff Report

July 10, 2025
CONSENT AGENDA

TO: Forest and Beach Commissioners

**SUBMITTED
BY:**

SUBJECT: Public Works Director's Report for June 2025

RECOMMENDATION:

BACKGROUND/SUMMARY:

Public Works Director's Report for June 2025. Items covered are:

- Staffing & Administration
- Environmental Programs
- Facility Maintenance
- Street Maintenance
- Project Management: CIP

FISCAL IMPACT:

ATTACHMENTS:

Public Works Director's Report



CITY OF CARMEL-BY-THE-SEA

Public Works Department July 2025 Report

TO:	Honorable Mayor and City Council Members
SUBMITTED BY:	Ken Wysocki, Public Works Director
SUBMITTED ON:	July 2025

Public Works Director

- Public Works Hiring: Maintenance Worker and Project Manager
- Developing FY25-26 CIP Workplan.

Environmental Programs

- North Dunes Project:
 - Ice Plant Removal Still Ongoing – additional planned for FY25/26
 - Renewing 5-year Coastal Development Permit (CDP 16-315) – Forest & Beach Commission Review in June 2026; Planning Commission review in July 2025
- Roadway Improvement Project – CEQA NOE:
 - PW to file NOE with County of Monterey.
- Carmel Beach Sea Level Rise/Adaptation Project:
 - Waiting on response from the Coastal Commission regarding: Community Engagement Plan, Outreach Strategy Table, Draft Adaptation Feasibility Table, Community Workshop Summary.
 - Ongoing community outreach for completing a survey through the end of July.
 - Coastal Commission Grant Request for Funds and Progress Report due July 25th
- Stormwater:
 - Conducting Stormwater Training for Planning and Public Works staff.
 - Meeting with CAWD regarding Fats, Oils, and Grease (FOG) inspections and Areas of Special Biological Significance (ASBS) compliance.
- Waste Management
 - SB 53 Survey Requested – all Monterey Peninsula cities due July 3rd
 - Restaurants & Compliance – staff met with 34 of the 40 Carmel Plaza businesses on recycling compliance

Facility Maintenance

- City Hall:
 - Handrail painting project completed
 - City Hall Garden - completed refinishing the wooden table and bench backs
- Approval for Janitorial contract extension for 6-months going to July Council.
- Former EOC painting started on June 10th
- Planning for Sunset Center piano room, elevator and crew room flooring work.
- Working on Public Works administrative office security counter.
- PD/PW Emergency Repairs: Working on gate/evidence room/EOC, and door security upgrades.

Street Maintenance

- Continued the annual traffic markings painting project.
- Continued sidewalk repairs based on the survey list.

Project Management for the Capital Improvement Program

Ausonio, Inc. Projects:

- Sunset Center Retaining Walls Repair Project: Consultant completed the design of retaining walls. Requests were made to reduce the scope. Project is on FY25-26 CIP.

Wallace Group Projects:

- Shoreline Infrastructure Repair Project: PW team working with contractor on the scope.
- City-Wide Paving Project: Project posted with a Bid date set for July 22nd. Working on encroachment permit with Caltrans.

Additional Capital Improvement Projects:

- City-wide Drainage Improvement Projects: Construction on 2nd/Lincoln and 11th Ave completed, and Acacia way, 8th Ave/Santa Fe will be finishing up pipe installation.
- Vista Lobos Panel Upgrade & EV: Received bid schedule and will advertise for bid at the end of July, anticipate coming to Council for approval in August.
- Dolores Street Main Replacement (8th to Ocean): CalAM to install water main. CalAM will present at July Council meeting.

Forestry, Parks, and Beach

- Refer to City Forester's Report.



CITY OF CARMEL-BY-THE-SEA FOREST AND BEACH COMMISSION Staff Report

July 10, 2025
ORDERS OF BUSINESS

TO: Forest and Beach Commissioners

SUBMITTED BY: Justin Ono, City Forester

SUBJECT: Receive a presentation on Construction Related Tree Fines and provide feedback

RECOMMENDATION:

Receive a presentation on construction-related tree fines. Discuss ways to foster a more effective ordinance relating to trees damaged during the design and construction process.

BACKGROUND/SUMMARY:

Over the past decade, Planning Applications and Building Permits sharply increased before hitting a plateau of 375-400 a year around 2015/2016. These large numbers were due in part to the allocation of water credits at that time. The natural draw of a beautiful village in a forest by the sea contributes to the high rate of construction for such a small town. The rate of construction is, in part, also driven by the high value of investment and return on homes in Carmel-by-the-Sea, with an average property value of \$2,100 per square foot. This number is almost ten times the national average of \$200 - \$250 per square foot, placing Carmel among the top property markets in the country.

With such high property value, square footage is at a premium on small residential lots in Carmel. As of late, it has become apparent to staff that trees have been removed, damaged, and/or improperly protected during the construction process at an increasing rate.

The following information intends to show the inadequacy of the current codified tree fines and penalties as well to highlight the fact that these inadequacies are not a new issue for our town. The end goal is to reduce the rate of tree infractions and prevent avoidable tree deaths related to construction. In other words, the objective is to discourage harm to trees by making violations carry meaningful consequences.

The current codified enforcement for trees damaged during construction is listed as \$250 for a first infraction and \$500 for a second infraction, Carmel Municipal Code sec. 17.48.150.B. These amounts are so negligible that pursuing its recovery is often not even worth the staff time required to do so. Another way to levy a fine, per Code sec. 17.48.150.C.2, is to bring the matter before the Forest and Beach Commission to fine the owner the appraised value of the damaged trees. While recovering the appraised value provides at least some measure of accountability, it fails to act as a meaningful deterrent and can be viewed simply as an inconsequential 'cost of doing business' relative to typical project costs and property values in the city. The current Enforcement regulations, as set forth in Code section 17.48.150, can be found in **Attachment 1**.

While no formal recommendation is being made at this time, the following options are provided to facilitate discussion and consideration with the Commission:

1. Codify flat rate per tree damages. Many cities around California have much higher tree fines with repeat offenses garnering larger fees. A few examples are:
 - a. Laguna Beach: The city council approved an ordinance in 2018 with penalties for illegal tree removal ranging from \$1,000 to \$30,000. Repeat offenses and removing "heritage" trees (those with distinctive features promoting the city's beauty, character, and history) would incur the largest fines.
 - b. San Jose: The City of San José has strict tree laws. It is illegal to prune or remove a street tree without a permit, with potential fines up to \$15,000 per tree. For "Heritage Trees" with special significance, illegal pruning or removal without a permit after consulting the City Arborist can result in fines up to \$30,000 per tree.
 - c. La Cañada Flintridge: In 2014, the city council adopted a restitution structure for removing or damaging trees in the public right-of-way, with fines based on the wholesale cost of a replacement tree. The maximum penalty is \$18,000 for trees with diameters of 36 inches or more.
 - d. County of San Mateo: Unauthorized removal of Significant and Heritage Trees in the county can result in penalties ranging from \$2,500 to \$10,000 per tree.
 - e. City of San Mateo: Penalties for damaging any protected tree during construction can reach up to \$10,000 per participant per tree. A stop-work order may also be issued until a mitigation plan is in place.
2. Require a deposit or bond for the appraised value of the trees on site. The city of Saratoga requires a deposit of 25%-100% of the trees where development will occur within 5 feet of their driplines (**Attachment 2**). This money goes into an account which is used to fund the Contract City Arborist's work on the project. As our city has full-time staff this money can be held as collateral in case a tree is purposely or inadvertently damaged during construction activities.
3. Set a base rate fine and add a variable fine according to the appraised property value of the site. For example:

Proposed Penalty Framework

- a. Minimum Flat Fee Penalty (Fine would be codified and added to fee schedule)
Amount: \$10,000 per protected tree violation (unauthorized removal, death, or egregious damage).
Adjustment: Increases by 3.5% annually, compounded in perpetuity, to maintain real deterrent value against inflation and rising project valuations (or to base the annual increase to be equal to the San Francisco Consumer Price Index).
- b. Additional Percentage-Based Penalty
Amount: 2–5% of the assessed property value, to be determined case-by-case within this range.

In this scenario, Staff recommends discussing whether City Council should determine the final applied percentage for each case or if a fixed percentage within this range could be codified for administrative clarity and ease of implementation. If this situation, or in any of the example punitive scenarios presented in this staff report are recommended, final language would always be reviewed by the City Attorney prior to introduction to the Commission or Council.

Example Penalty Scenario

Protected Tree Violation	Penalty
Flat fee penalty	\$10,000
Additional property value penalty (e.g. 2% on \$2.5M property)	\$50,000
Total penalty	\$60,000 minimum

Staff believes that a combined penalty structure, which would include a flat fee as well as the ability to impose additional fines for egregious situations, would better deter projects who would otherwise treat tree violations as a routine cost of development.

Further Questions for Commission Discussion:

- Would an increase in flat fee penalties affect the Commission's role in administering them?
- Should City Council retain the exclusive authority to implement value-based penalties? If so, what would Forest and Beach Commission's role be in this matter?
- Should construction companies be required to post bonds, provide tree damage insurance, or both prior to issuance of permits for building/grading?
- To what extent, if any, should contractors (in addition to property owners) be held to account for infractions in which they played a direct role?

FISCAL IMPACT:

No specific fiscal impact at this time.

ATTACHMENTS:

Attachment 1: Carmel Municipal Code Section 17.48.150

Attachment 2: City of Saratoga Tree Coversheet and Checklist.

- . Violations. It shall be unlawful for any person to violate any provision or fail to comply with any of the requirements of this chapter. A violation of any of the provisions or failure to comply with any of the mandatory requirements of this chapter shall constitute an infraction.
 - . Penalties. Any person convicted of an infraction under the provisions of such sections shall be punishable by fine only as follows: Upon a first conviction, by a fine not exceeding \$250.00, and for a second conviction or any subsequent conviction within a period of one year, by a fine not exceeding \$500.00.
 - 2. Cutting, removing, or pruning of trees on public property without a permit shall be a misdemeanor.
 - 3. In addition to the penalties provided for herein, any violation of such sections may be addressed by civil action.
- C. Suspension of Permit. Removal of trees, pruning or root removal without a permit shall be grounds for suspension of any permits granted for construction or demolition for a period of up to 90 days, said period of time to be determined by the City Forester. During the suspension period, the property owner or her/his designee shall make application to the Forest and Beach Commission to obtain the necessary permit. Upon the review of the application, the Forest and Beach Commission:
- 1. May require replacement trees to be planted upon completion of construction;
 - 2. May require an amount of money equal to the value of the lost tree(s) to be deposited in a deposit account to be used for reforestation;
 - 3. May, in the event a tree is damaged and the City Forester determines that it may die within one year, require a sum of money equal to the tree's value to be deposited with the City in a deposit account for a period of time not exceeding one year. If the tree dies during that period the City shall use the money for restoration. The City Forester shall determine the tree's value using criteria established by the International Society of Arboriculture. (Ord. 2004-02 § 1, 2004; Ord. 2004-01 § 1, 2004).

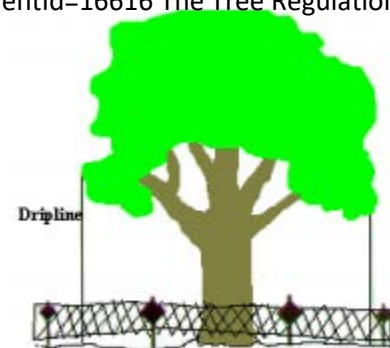


TREE PROTECTION REQUIREMENTS FOR PROJECTS IN SARATOGA

- ❖ Any time the canopy dripline of a tree protected by City Code extends into an area of proposed construction or is within five feet of the proposed construction activity an arborist report and a tree preservation plan is required.
- ❖ Protected trees
 - **All trees** – when the trunk diameter at 4.5 ft. above the ground (**DBH**) is **10 inches** or more (includes all species, dead trees and fallen trees).
 - **Multi-trunked trees** – add ½ of diameter of all smaller trunks to full diameter of largest trunk (City Code 15-50.020(g) definition of DBH).
 - **Native species** – when the trunk diameter (**DBH**) is **6 inches** or more (coast live oak, valley oak, blue oak, black oak, redwood, Douglass fir, big leaf maple, California buckeye)
 - **Street Trees** – any street tree regardless of size as defined in Section 15-50.020 (x.)
 - **Heritage Trees** – any heritage tree regardless of size.
 - **Previously Required Trees** – any tree required to be planted or retained as a condition of any approval granted under Chapter 14 or 15.
- ❖ A tree preservation plan is a plan of how to retain, protect and work around trees during a construction project. The easiest way to create a Tree Preservation Plan is to print the arborist report onto a plan sheet and title it “Tree Preservation”.
- ❖ When a construction project needs a tree preservation plan, the City requires that an arborist deposit account be set up with the Planning Department. This account is for the City Arborist to work on projects at a rate of \$120 per hour. Following completion of a project, any funds remaining in the account are refunded back to the property owner. For help with the process or additional questions, feel free to contact the City Arborist.
- ❖ Saratoga City Code: <http://library.municode.com/index.aspx?clientId=16616> The Tree Regulations are Article 15-50. TREE PROTECTION ZONE

THE TREE PROTECTION ZONE

The tree protection zone is the distance from the trunk to a point that is five feet beyond the canopy dripline of a tree protected by City Code.





ARBORIST REPORT COVERSHEET

Arborist:

Prepared By: _____

ISA Certified Arborist Number: _____

Date of Arborist Report: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Date of plans and plan sheets reviewed: _____

Owner:

Project Address: _____

Property Owner: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Brief description of work: _____

Summary Table

Total number of trees inventoried:	
Number of protected trees:	
Total appraised value of protected trees:	
Recommended security deposit:	
Number of protected trees requested for removal:	
Total appraised value of protected trees requested for removal:	

City of Saratoga Arborist Report checklist:

- ☐ The completed Arborist Report Coversheet
- ☐ An inventory of all protected trees potentially impacted – this includes trees on neighbor’s properties with canopy driplines within 5 feet of proposed construction activity
- ☐ Appraised value of each protected tree using the Trunk Formula Method
- ☐ Condition of each protected tree and an evaluation of impacts of construction or work, including grading, excavation for utility installation, retaining walls, drainage, or any other aspect of project
- ☐ If trees are requested for removal, the arborist report should evaluate the removals according to the City’s list of tree removal criteria (City Code 15-50.080, attached) and be able to make findings in the affirmative that the trees qualify for removal and replacement as part of the project. Include a list of trees requested for removal to construct the project, the appraised value of these trees, and the removal criteria by number that each tree meets.
- ☐ Tree protection specifications – any conditions needed to adequately protect trees during construction.
- ☐ Any time work should be supervised by a Project Arborist, name that work in the report. Require that a follow up letter be provided to the City documenting how the work was carried out, and any necessary mitigation requirements. All pruning or root pruning of protected trees must be supervised by an ISA-certified arborist/Project Arborist.
- ☐ A map showing the location of each tree and the locations of protective fencing
 1. Tree protection fencing requirements:
 - a. Six-foot high chain link fencing mounted on eight-foot tall, 2-inch diameter galvanized posts, driven 24 inches into the ground and spaced no more than 10 feet apart.
 - b. Posted with signs saying, “TREE PROTECTION FENCE – DO NOT MOVE OR REMOVE WITHOUT APPROVAL FROM CITY ARBORIST – CHRISTINA FUSCO 408-868-1276”.
 - c. The City requires that tree protection fencing be installed before any equipment comes on site and inspected by the City Arborist before issuance of building permits.
 - d. Tree protection fencing is required to remain in place throughout construction.

TREE PROTECTION ZONE

The tree protection zone is the distance from the trunk to a point that is five feet beyond the canopy dripline of a tree protected by City Code. Tree protection fencing shall be located as close to this location as possible while allowing room for construction to occur.

- ☐ The City requires that new trees equal to the total appraised value of trees approved for removal be planted on site, or that some or all of the value be placed in a fund for tree planting elsewhere in the City. This should be specified in the report.
- ☐ Include replacement tree requirements. Include requirements for height at maturity if tall trees are being removed, native species if natives are being removed, whether new trees should be planted in the front yard or anywhere on the property.

- For ease of determining replacement trees, replacement values have been assigned to specific sizes of trees as follows:

15 gallon = \$350	24 inch box = \$500	36 inch box = \$1,500
48 inch box = \$5,000	60 inch box = 7,000	72 inch box = \$15,000
- Require a Tree Protection Security Deposit on trees to be retained during construction and potentially impacted by work. The deposit is to be between 25% and 100% of the total appraised value of trees potentially impacted. If there will be more than one structure on the property, the deposit must be equal to 100% of the value of the trees potentially impacted (City Code 15-50.080(d)). If only one structure will be built, make a recommendation for the amount of the security deposit.
- Require a final inspection by the City Arborist at the end of the project. This is to be done before the tree protection fencing is taken down. Replacement trees should be planted at this time as well.
- Make statements:
 1. The report is to be copied onto a plan sheet and become part of the final plan set. State that the owner, contractor, and architect are all responsible for knowing the information included in the arborist report and adhering to the conditions provided.
 2. Any tree on site protected by City Code will require replacement according to its appraised value if it is damaged beyond repair as a result of construction.
 3. The owner/applicant will be required to obtain, and file with the Community Development Director, a Tree Protection security deposit prior to obtaining Building Division permits.
 4. The tree protection security deposit is to remain in place for the duration of construction of the project to ensure the protection of the trees.
 5. Once the project has been completed, inspected, and approved by the City Arborist (a building inspector cannot release the tree security deposit), the bond will be released.
- The arborist report is to include information that supports the findings listed below in the affirmative.
 1. Construction is set back far enough from trees to provide adequate protection, with mitigation and protection measures required to provide adequate protection (City Code 15-50.120)
 2. Trees requested for removal meet the tree removal criteria, overall, and qualify for removal and replacement as part of the project.
 3. The arborist report, once copied onto a plan sheet and included in the final set of plans, serves as a Tree Preservation Plan (City Code 15-50.140).
 4. The design of the project preserves the maximum number of protected trees possible given the constraints of the property (City Code 15-45.080(c))



CITY OF CARMEL-BY-THE-SEA FOREST AND BEACH COMMISSION Staff Report

July 10, 2025
ORDERS OF BUSINESS

TO: Forest and Beach Commissioners

SUBMITTED BY: Justin Ono, City Forester

SUBJECT: June 2025 Forester's Report

RECOMMENDATION:

Receive a presentation of the June 2025 Forester's Report.

BACKGROUND/SUMMARY:

FISCAL IMPACT:

No fiscal impact at this time.

ATTACHMENTS:

Forester's Report



CITY OF CARMEL-BY-THE-SEA

Monthly Report

City Forester's Report

TO:	Forest and Beach Commissioners
FROM:	Justin Ono, City Forester
SUBJECT:	June 2025 Forester's Report

Forestry, Parks, and Beach Highlights:

Carmel Forest Master Plan (CFMP):

- Biological consultant Nikki Nedeff and F&BC submitted edits of the CFMP (as agreed by the Steering Committee in their most recent meeting) to Staff who are starting their internal review and editing.
- A public meeting will be planned as soon as the first draft of the report is finished by Staff.

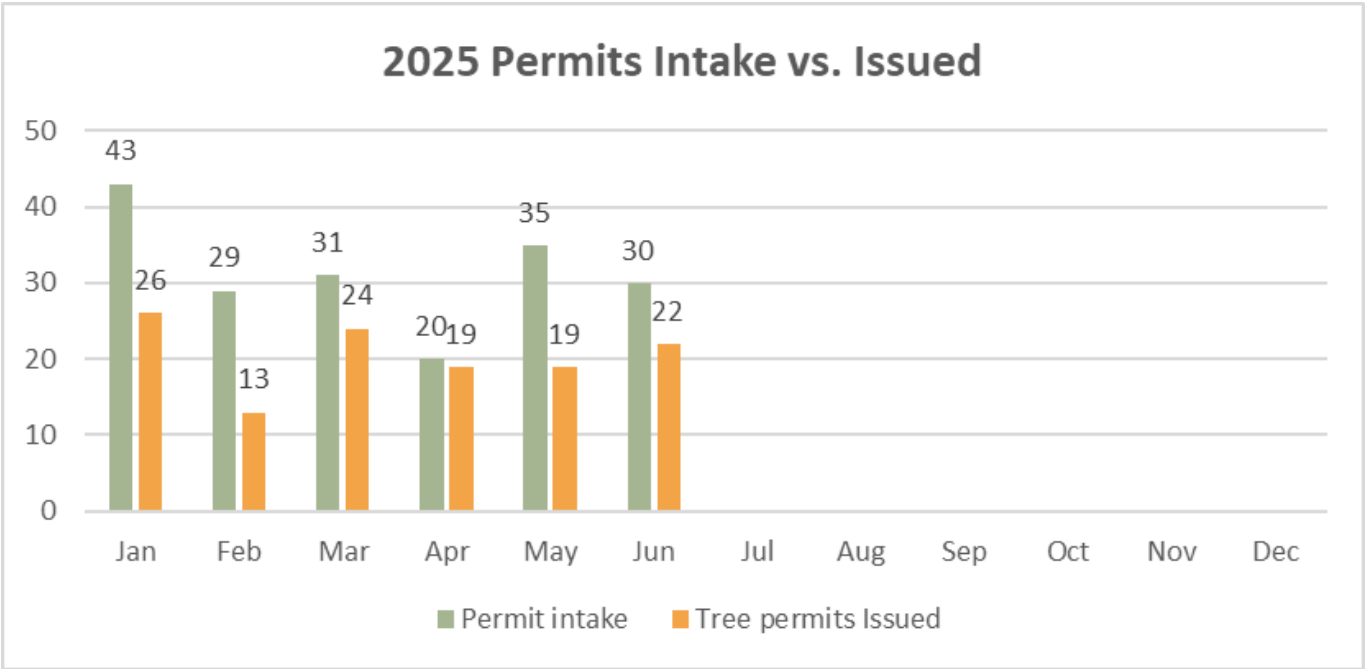
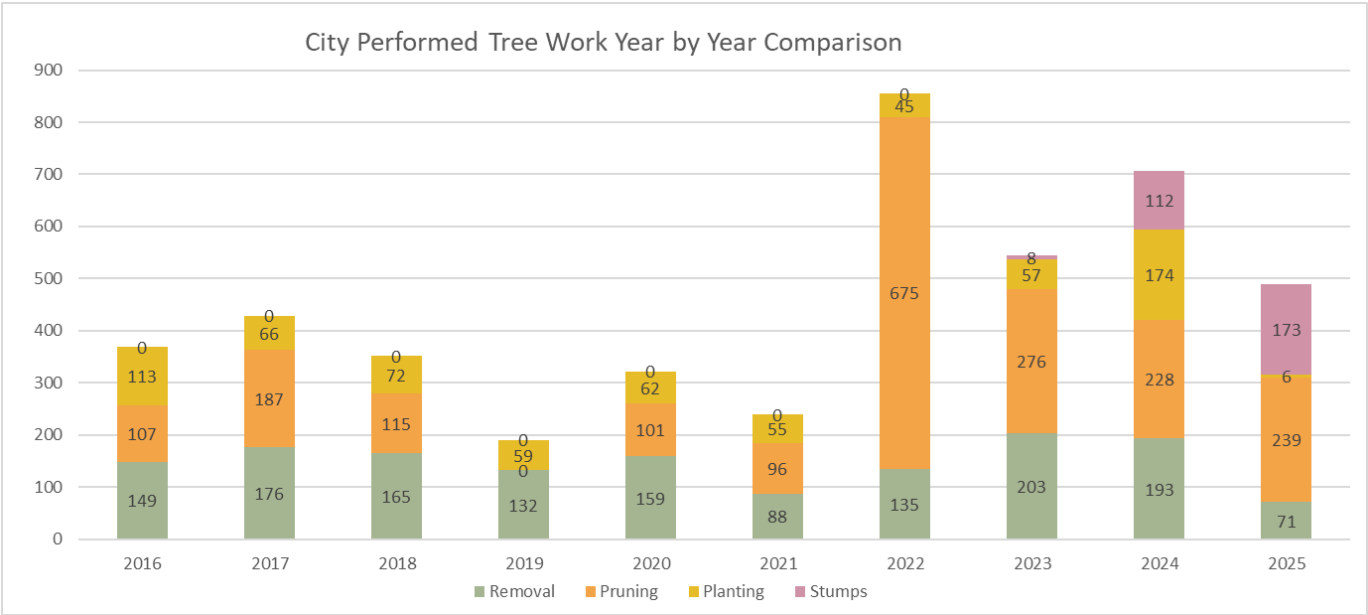
Contractors:

- Tope's Tree service pruned several trees and removed vegetation around Flander's Mansion for fire clearance and defensible space.
- Tope's also performed road widening/clearance pruning on Santa Lucia Ave to allow better access for the city escape route.
- Community Tree service had already completed their portion of the 2024/2025 contract.
- June saw mostly wrap up work with the contractors with task orders already being prepared for the new fiscal year's budget.
- For the new Fiscal Year 2025-26, a total of \$981,500 was allocated for tree services. Staff is currently drafting change orders to be divided between contractors for the FY 25-26.

City Staff and Crews:

- Forestry staff participated in First Aid and CPR training with the Monterey Fire Department.
- City Forestry Crew removed 5 dead, dying, or dangerous trees, planted 1 trees, and pruned 20 trees providing clearance for roads and stop signs, as well as maintaining tree health.
- City Tree Crew continued to pick up logs in the right of way that were left from several large PG&E tree removals.

Permit Information



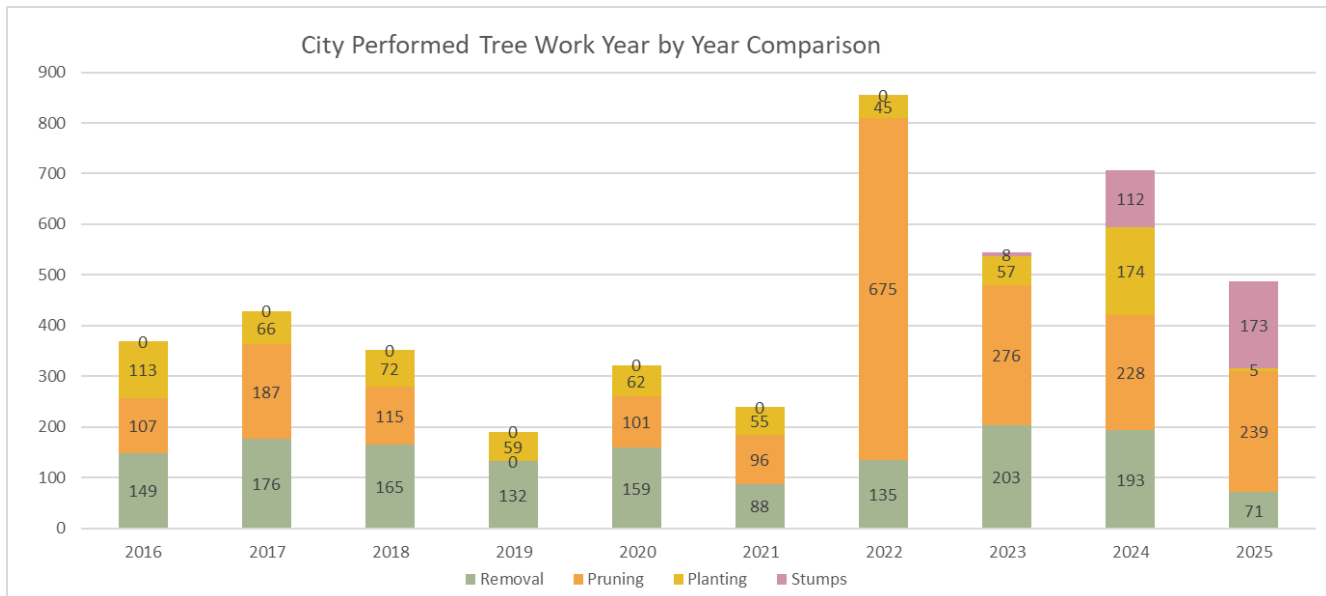
Historic permitted removals and required planting		
	Re-planting of upper	Re-planting of lower
2013	31	29
2014	35	20
2017	15	28
2018	1	18
2019	53	63
2020	70	28
2021	81	54
2022	48	37
2023	164	72
2024	118	113
2025*	46	54
*Year to date		

Historic permitted removals and required planting

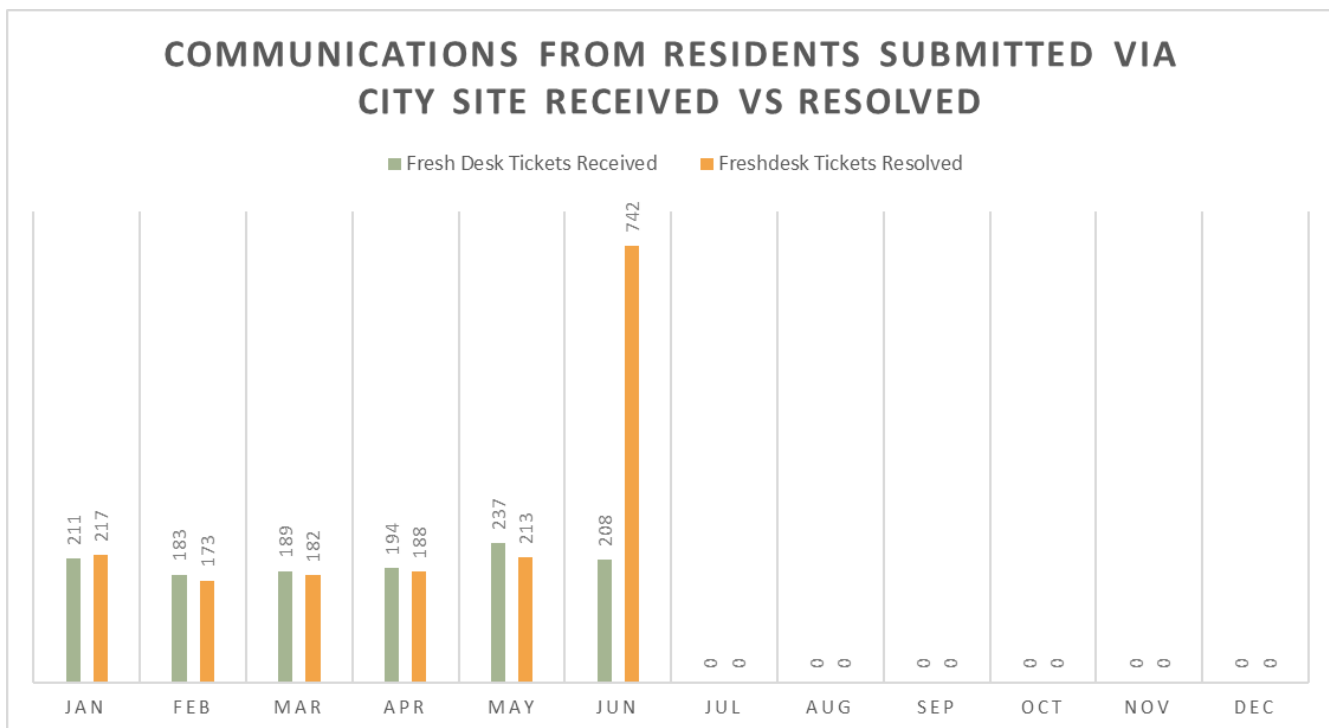
Year	Permitted removals	Removal of upper	Removal of lower	Replanting Required	Replanting of upper	Replanting of lower	Replanting %	Applications processed
2021	204	81	123	135	81	54	66.18%	213
2022	149	82	67	85	48	37	57.05%	155
2023	324	211	113	223	164	72	68.83%	336
2024	231	110	121	231	118	113	100.00%	391
2025	100	51	49	100	46	54	100.00%	182



City Forestry, Parks, and Beach Activities



Calendar year to date – Includes stumps removed by City crew as well as on call tree contractors.



*Numbers only represent correspondences received via the City's website and do not include live calls, voicemails, drop-in visitors, and emails sent directly to employees from residents, nor return calls and emails from staff. Spike in last months resolutions due to large scale data cleanup.

Tree Inventory and Deferred Maintenance ‘Catch Up’ Status

The 3-Year “Catch Up Plan”:

Year 1 of the anticipated 3-year plan to catch up on deferred maintenance was a resounding success. The following chart provided at the previous month’s Foresters Report reflects outcomes relative to goals for Fiscal Year 2024/25. Staff is currently updating our goals for this new Fiscal Year 2025-26 in light of our newly approved FY 25-26 budget of \$981,500, as well as cleaning data in our software to ensure we start out with the most accurate information possible. We will continue to provide monthly updates to our plans in each subsequent Forester’s Report.

Year 1 of Forestry 3-Year Catch-Up Plan		
	Trees in Dead or Very Poor condition	Stumps
2024 Inventory	321	664
FY 24/25 Goal	128	221
FY 24/25 YTD	147	386

Forest, Parks and Beach CIP Funding:

The following chart and descriptions are the approved Fiscal Year 2025-26 CIP budgets related to Forest, Parks, and Beach:

Category	Description	FY25-26 Recommended Budget
New Capital Projects		
Forest/Park/Beach	Rio and Junipero Ave Median Enhancements	100,000
Forest/Park/Beach	Reconstruction of the Fourth Ave Outfall	900,000
Forest/Park/Beach	Shoreline Repairs Stairs Construction	300,000
Forest/Park/Beach	Forest Plan Implementation Year 2	739,000
Forest/Park/Beach	Devendorf Park Improvements	50,000
Forest/Park/Beach	Sand Ramp at Eighth Avenue	275,000
Forest/Park/Beach	Scenic Pathway Enhancements	100,000

FOREST, PARKS AND BEACH

Shoreline Infrastructure Repair (\$400,000)

The first phase of the Coastal Engineering Study included a Shoreline Infrastructure Condition Assessment. The Assessment concluded that 2-4 existing seawalls need repairs, with the highest priority repair being the Fourth Avenue Outfall. Eleven coastal access stairs were assessed with 9 stairs needing repairs, and two stairs are currently closed due to structural damage resulting from winter storms. In addition, of the 6 rock revetments, 4



are high priority in need of repair; one in its entirety and others in some portions.

The total cost for engineering design, environmental permits, and construction for all of these repairs will likely exceed \$2 million over the next few years, as outlined in the 5-Year CIP.

This Shoreline Infrastructure Repair Project will initiate the engineering and design of the highest priority repairs, as well as repairing the remaining damaged beach access stairs with similar materials as a “maintenance project”. This approach

is expected to streamline the regulatory approval process. This initial project will also allow the City to better estimate costs and phasing to complete future shoreline infrastructure repairs. A Request for Proposal has been prepared to retain a consultant with expertise in environmental permitting, coastal and structural engineering, and cost estimating.

Project funding for FY 23-24 was initially set at \$250,000. An additional \$100,000 previously budgeted for the Coastal Engineering Study, Phase 2 was reallocated to the Shoreline Infrastructure Project, and a FEMA grant of approximately \$50,000 was received for beach stair repairs. All funds will be carried over into FY 25-26.

Rio and Junipero Ave Median Enhancements (\$100,000)

Funding will be used to design and implement enhancements to the existing medians along Rio Road and Junipero Avenue. Improvements would include new landscaping and irrigation upgrades.

Reconstruction of the Fourth Ave Outfall (\$900,000)

Funding will be used for construction work to replace the outfall structure at 4th Avenue, which is showing significant structural deficiencies and is in a high level of disrepair. The existing structure is at risk of further deterioration, impacting the surrounding area.

Design work for the replacement is being initiated in the current fiscal year, with construction aimed at restoring the outfall’s functionality, preventing further erosion, and ensuring the long-term stability of the area.

Shoreline Repairs Stairs Construction (\$300,000)

Funding will be used for construction work to reconstruct stairs damaged by winter storms and the effects of sea level rise. The stairs located north of 10th Avenue and on Twelfth Avenue have sustained deterioration and damage from these storms. Design work for the reconstruction will begin in the current fiscal year, with the goal of restoring safe access while addressing future environmental conditions. The anticipated cost is based on replacing the stairs with wooden structures, consistent with the existing design and environmental considerations. The design phase of the previously approved Shoreline Infrastructure Project (Task 1), which was authorized by City Council on March 24, 2025, is currently underway. Upon completion of this assessment, staff will return to Council with a potential recommendation to reconstruct the existing stairs using new concrete structures, with preliminary engineer's estimates placing the cost at approximately \$400,000 per stair.

Forest Plan Implementations Year 2 (\$739,000)

Budget reflects dead/unsafe tree removals and the backlog of stumps, all part of a 3-year tree maintenance catch-up plan, which began last fiscal year and is expected to culminate in the Fiscal Year 2026-27. In Year 1, the City removed over 175 dead, dying, or diseased trees and removed over 300 stumps, far exceeding our goals.

Devendorf Park Improvements (\$50,000)

Allocated funding will be used to support a series of improvements within Devendorf Park, including enhancements to the War Memorials to preserve their condition and appearance, restoration and upgrades to the existing fishpond to improve its functionality and aesthetic, and the installation of a new guard rail/fence along Sixth Avenue to enhance public safety and define the area. These efforts aim to preserve historic features, improve site aesthetics, and ensure a safer and more welcoming environment for visitors.

Sand Ramp at Eighth Avenue (\$275,000)

Funding will be used for the design and reconstruction of the access sand ramp near Eighth Avenue, which has been repeatedly damaged by winter storms and the impacts of sea level rise. The ramp no longer exists in its current location due to extensive damage. Design work for the new ramp will begin in the current fiscal year, with reconstruction aimed at ensuring safe and reliable access while addressing future environmental challenges.

Scenic Pathway Enhancements (\$100,000)

Funding would be used to resurface and stabilize the existing decomposed granite (DG) pathway along Scenic Pathway, as well as the installation of new signage.

(To see the entire approved Fiscal Year 2025-26 budget book, go to ci.carmel.ca.us)