

THE DEL RIO TRAIL PROJECT

TREE PROGRAM FAQS

How many trees and tree species are on the Del Rio Trail?

There are over 1,800 trees in the trail corridor representing 52 species. The different types of trees along the Del Rio Trail are listed in the arborist report on the project website.

How many trees are you removing?

We are removing 384 trees, of which 259 are native to the Sacramento Region.

What will you do with the trees you remove?

The current plan is for the removed trees to become the property of the contractor. However the City is looking into options to repurpose these trees.

Will the City replace any trees that are removed?

Yes, the City will plant 810 trees throughout the corridor to replace the 384 that are being removed. That's over a 2:1 replacement ratio.

What attempts were made to minimize the number of trees impacted by this project?

Multiple design features were included to save existing trees to the greatest extent feasible including adjusting the trail alignment, the trail width, and/or embankment slopes, and reducing the parking lot footprint. We also added retaining curbs and retaining walls to save existing trees.

As a result of redesign efforts, 183 fewer trees will be removed than identified in the original trail alignment in the 2019 Final Environmental Impact Report.

Why isn't the trail placed on the railroad tracks to avoid more trees?

The existing railroad tracks have been identified as a historic resource. Since 2017, the City has worked alongside many project stakeholders, including California State Parks and the California State Railroad Museum Foundation, to:

- evaluate corridor alternatives that balance preserving the abandoned railroad as a historic resource.
- protect the natural environment and surrounding neighborhood.
- ensure public safety and an active transportation utility.

To achieve this balance, some trees were affected where no other feasible alternatives could be achieved. The City is working with the Sacramento Tree Foundation on tree replanting efforts.

What kind of studies were conducted to determine which trees to remove?

A comprehensive tree survey was conducted over a 10-day period in the spring/summer of 2020. The survey recorded each tree's location, attached a unique tree tag, and identified the species, diameter at standard height, general health, and structural stability. The survey results were summarized in the Arborist Report, which can be accessed on the Del Rio Trail project website at cityofsacramento.org/delriotrail.

What drives the decision to remove or replace trees?

The City was required to work within the constraints of the boundaries of the historic rail corridor. Factors such as size, tree health, condition and sustainability determined priority. Other priorities included historical preservation, public safety and accessibility.

Did you follow the City's tree ordinance requirements?

Applicable sections of the City's Tree Ordinance were followed by the Project team. In particular, Section 12.56.040 of the Tree Ordinance for the Removal of City Trees – Public Projects required the City to modify the project design to avoid removal or damage of trees, provide written justification documenting the need to remove the trees, and publicly disclose the tree impacts at least 15 days prior to Council approval of tree removal.

What are the short-term impacts to the tree canopy and what will it be like in 20 years?

In the short-term, the existing tree canopy will be reduced. This provides an overall benefit to the trees that remain since they will have less competition for water and light. With the new tree layout, the existing and newly planted trees will thrive because the City's urban foresters will have better access to maintain the trees, resulting in larger overall canopies in the future.

How did you select the new tree species and are they native?

We worked closely with the Sacramento Tree Foundation to select the trees they recommended. In general, all the trees are native or climate-adapted and, once established, can survive without supplemental water. We selected currently available trees and a good mix of small, medium, and large tree species. The new tree species are featured on the Sacramento Tree Foundation's website at sactree.org/best-trees-for-sacramento.

The small trees were selected for their compact size and flowering ornamental (showy) nature and provide wayfinding and accents at trail entrances. Medium trees were selected for areas where large oak trees might cause a problem due to utility conflicts or other space constraints. Large trees (including native oak trees) were selected for their ability to provide shade along the trail, meet City parking lot shade requirements, and contribute to mitigating Protected Trees.

How did you decide where to plant new trees?

New tree locations have been selected to maximize sustainable replanting, taking into account available space within the corridor and proximity to existing trees that will remain. New trees are also located away from overhead and underground utilities, adjacent residential fences, and structural features.

How will the City ensure the newly planted trees survive?

The City is working with the Sacramento Tree Foundation to plant and maintain the new trees for two years. The Tree Foundation will irrigate them to ensure the new trees are properly established and thrive. Thereafter, the City's Parks Department will maintain the trees.