

FEATURE



For the Love of Trees, Part 2:

The Ongoing Benefit of Requesting a Tree for Your Parkway

By Maria Kootsikis, Pharm.D.

In a previous newsletter, I discussed replacing a gaping hole in your parkway where a diseased city tree was removed with an Evergreen Pear, which is on the approved list of trees for Long Beach. However, one of our neighbors recently requested the *Pyrus Calleryana*, also known as a Callery Pear, as a second tree for their parkway to shade the east side of their house to match the other *Pyrus Calleryana* on the west side of their house. She worked closely with Long Beach City's Acting Arborist, Eluid Aguirre, to obtain approval. Mr. Aguirre is very knowledgeable and extremely helpful; he may be reached at 562-570-2754. If you leave a message, he calls back within 24 hours.

According to the Tree People website and USDA Forest Service, trees not only break up "urban heat islands" by decreasing ambient temperatures by 10° Fahrenheit, they also cut down on summer air conditioning needs. Trees properly placed around your home can reduce your air conditioning use by 30% and save 20% to 50% in heating costs. Additionally, trees absorb odors and pollutant gases (nitrogen oxides, ammonia, sulfur dioxide and ozone) and filter particulates out of the air by trapping them on their leaves and bark.^{1,2}

Adding a tree to your parkway contributes to improving our environment and to enhancing the natural beauty of our neighborhood.

As a reminder, it won't cost you anything to obtain and plant the tree of your choice from the list of approved trees provided by the city. If you would like assistance, the Bluff Heights Neighborhood Association (BHNA) can help you with the request to replace or add trees to the city-owned portion on the parkway in front of your home.

***Look Deep into Nature
and You Will Understand
Everything Better***

~Albert Einstein

Please access <http://www.longbeach.gov/sustainability/programs/tree-planting/> to:

1. Review the City's Policy on Tree Maintenance
2. Select a tree type from the Tree Selection List or take the Tree Selection Quiz to help identify the right tree for you.
3. Mail a completed Tree Planting Permit form to:
PW/Public Service - Trees
1651 San Francisco Ave
Long Beach, CA 90813
Phone: 562-570-2700 (press 4)

The city offers a fun tree selection quiz to help you identify what kind of tree you may be interested in for your parkway:

<http://www.longbeach.gov/sustainability/programs/tree-planting/tree-yourself/>

References

1. <https://www.treepeople.org/22-benefits-of-trees/>
2. <https://www.houselogic.com/by-room/yard-patio/plant-trees-save-energy-grow-value/>

Question: ***How do trees
access the Internet?***

Answer: ***They log on.***

P.S. Don't forget to water your trees!

Maria Kootsikis and her husband, Paul Montalbano, both retired pharmacists, moved to beautiful Bluff Heights for their retirement.