

City of Citrus Heights

URBAN FOREST TREE INVENTORY REPORT

June 2014



Funding provided by Proposition 84 to improve the sustainability and livability of California's communities through the Strategic Growth Council's Urban Greening for Sustainable Communities grant program.

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FUNDING PROVIDED BY PROPOSITION 84 TO IMPROVE THE SUSTAINABILITY AND LIVABILITY OF CALIFORNIA’S COMMUNITIES THROUGH THE STRATEGIC GROWTH COUNCIL’S URBAN GREENING FOR SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES GRANT PROGRAM.

INTRODUCTION

In 2012, the Strategic Growth Council awarded the City \$207,000 to develop a Citrus Heights Urban Greening Strategy. The City conducted an inventory and assessment of the community's urban forest in order to establish baseline conditions for the Urban Forest Management Plan. The goal of the Urban Forest Management Plan is to bring all users, owners, and managers of the urban forest together to build a consensus on how to achieve a sustainable tree canopy.

HISTORY

The City of Citrus Heights incorporated on January 1, 1997. Although it may seem as if the City of Citrus Heights is relatively young after just celebrating its 15-year anniversary, the Citrus Heights area has a deep-rooted history dating back to the late 1800's and the Gold Rush days.

Citrus Heights, with a population of 84,345 (Department of Finance) is a unique established community in Sacramento County. The city has established itself as an important suburb in the Sacramento region with its solid base of small businesses, retail chains, and food service establishments. With an ongoing commitment to providing high-quality, economical, responsive services to the local community, the city is well-positioned for future commercial redevelopment, neighborhood enhancements, and positive changes.

In August 2011, the City released an updated General Plan, Environmental Impact Report and Greenhouse Gas Reduction Plan. These important planning documents were updated to include three new topics: climate change, complete streets, and water quality/flooding. The City's Greenhouse Gas Reduction Plan (GGRP) addresses major sources of GHG emissions in the community that cumulatively contribute to global climate change. The Plan represents the City's approach to addressing GHG emission reductions with the community.

In 2013, the Strategic Growth Council awarded the City grant funds to develop a Citrus Heights Urban Greening Strategy. The City conducted an inventory of the City's urban canopy as part of the first phase of the project to determine baseline conditions. The following report presents the methodology of the tree inventory; analyzes and interprets the results; and provides recommendations for future development of a citywide Urban Forest Management Plan.

METHODOLOGY

TEAM

Rhonda Sherman, Community and Economic Development Director

Christopher Myers, Facilities and Grounds Manager

Stephanie Cotter, Management Analyst II

Tree Inventory Interns:

Foundation (STF) to train City staff and four tree inventory interns to identify and assess the City's tree canopy. The STF provided the tree inventory interns with the tools to assess the city's urban forest, including: species, diameter at breast height (DBH), height, and general condition of the tree. It is important to note, the tree inventory interns are not certified arborists. Thus, the data should not be used for hazard assessment purposes.

DATA COLLECTION

For each tree included in the inventory, tree interns entered data in the following fields into the Trimble handheld device:

- ❖ Species
- ❖ Species Comments
- ❖ Diameter at breast height (DBH) (inches)
- ❖ Average diameter of crown canopy (feet)
- ❖ Condition
 - Excellent
 - Good
 - Poor
 - Needs Further Evaluation
- ❖ Condition Comments
- ❖ Land Use
 - City property
 - Commercial
- ❖ Land Use Comments
 - Right-of-Way
 - Creek Corridor
 - Median
- ❖ Presence of overhead utilities
 - Yes
 - No
 - Present and Conflicting
- ❖ Latitude (X)
- ❖ Longitude (Y)

In addition, the tree inventory interns collected the following information for each potential planting site identified on City property:

- ❖ Latitude (X)
- ❖ Longitude (Y)
- ❖ Area
- ❖ Surface Material

RESULTS

As a result of the City's inventory, STF data collection, and the SPRD inventory, a total of 28,873 records were compiled. The breakdown by data set is as follows:

- ❖ Citrus Heights Tree Inventory – 22,841 records
- ❖ Sacramento Tree Foundation GreenprintMaps.org Data –430 records
- ❖ Sunrise Recreation and Park District Inventory – 5,602 records

NEXT STEPS

The data collected as a part of the Citrus Heights Urban Forest Tree Inventory will be used as a baseline assessment to develop an Urban Forest Management Plan. Once approved, the Urban Forest Management Plan will be included as a part of the City's comprehensive Citrus Heights Urban Greening Strategy.

ATTACHMENTS

- I. Citrus Heights Urban Forest Tree Inventory Map
- II. Citrus Heights Tree Inventory Data