

2021 ANNUAL URBAN FOREST REPORT

FISCAL YEAR JULY 2020–JUNE 2021



Photo courtesy SF Environment

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Submitted to Mayor London N. Breed and the Board of Supervisors by the Department of the Environment, pursuant to San Francisco Environment Code Chapter 12, Section 1209.

SAN FRANCISCO URBAN FORESTRY COUNCIL

The purpose of the **Urban Forestry Council (UFC)** is to guide the stewardship of San Francisco's trees by promoting a healthy and sustainable urban forest that benefits all San Franciscans. The Council's scope of authority – which is advisory in nature - is the territorial boundaries of the City and County of San Francisco. The Council advises City departments and commissions, the Board of Supervisors, and the Mayor. The Council is charged with developing a comprehensive urban forest plan; educating the public; developing tree-care standards; identifying funding and staffing needs and opportunities for urban forest programs, and securing adequate resources; facilitating coordination of tree-management responsibilities among agencies; and reporting on the state of the urban forest. In fiscal year 2019/2020, the UFC completed an updated strategic plan with six high-level goals, or priorities:

1. Develop Policy Recommendations Related to Management of the Urban Forest with respect to Biodiversity, Tree Species Palette and Availability and Climate Change
2. Expand Focus of the Council to Consider all Trees in San Francisco
3. Steps to Strengthen the Urban Forestry Council
4. Develop Communications Plan
5. Articulate Canopy Goals to inform Policy
6. Attract Additional Funding for Tree Planting and Protection.

Urban Forestry Council Members and Staff (as of October 5, 2021)

Andrew Sullivan, Landscape Architect, Chair

Damon Spigelman, San Francisco Public Utilities Commission

Edgar Xochitl Flores, PODER

Igor Lacan, UC Cooperative Extension

Ildiko Polony, Sutro Stewards and Wildfires to Wildflowers

Jillian Keller, Professional Arborist

Lew Stringer, Presidio Trust

Michael Sullivan, Partner, Orrick, Herrington & Sutcliffe

Morgan Vaisset-Fauvel, University of California, San Francisco

Nicholas Crawford, San Francisco Public Works, Vice-Chair

Oscar Hernandez-Gomez, San Francisco Planning Department

Pam Nagle, Professional Arborist

Spencer Potter, San Francisco Recreation and Park Department

Tai Trang, Port of San Francisco

Peter Brastow, Urban Forestry Council Coordinator, San Francisco Department of Environment

Katie Chansler, Commission Affairs Manager, San Francisco Department of Environment

In 2020 and 2021, the Urban Forestry Council pursued various projects, both traditional efforts of the Council as well as some brand new projects.

Landmark Tree Program

The Landmark Tree Program was created by City ordinance in 2006 and aims to protect trees in San Francisco that have environmental, cultural, botanical, and other significance. In 2021, SF Environment performed a comprehensive scan of all documents related to the Landmark Tree Program and confirmed that the City has 21 legislated Landmark Trees. On September 7, 2021, the Board of Supervisors designated a Canary Island pine in a backyard on Filbert Street bringing the total to 22

Landmark Trees. The well-known California buckeye on McAllister Street is in the Board of Supervisors hands to become the 23rd Landmark Tree. Several other trees have been initially nominated for Landmark status over the past year, and they are at various stages of the process.

Ramaytush Ohlone Land Acknowledgement

In early 2021, the Commission on the Environment (COE) passed a resolution on Ramaytush Ohlone Land Acknowledgement. Theirs was part of a larger collective effort by City Commissions and the Board of Supervisors to pass Ramaytush Ohlone Land Acknowledgements. In June 2021, the Urban Forestry Council first discussed a resolution on Ramaytush Ohlone Land Acknowledgement and used the COE resolution as a model and starting point. In August the UFC passed its own resolution on Ramaytush Ohlone Land Acknowledgement, which was tailored to the UFC and its role, and which articulated its acknowledgement with local ecology and nature stewardship at its core.

Street Tree List

Almost every year for the past ten years, the Urban Forestry Council has published an official Street Tree List. The content and the format evolve from year to year with a significant formatting change happening from 2017 to 2018, when the list was made to be more user-friendly. A significant content change was made in 2019, when a section on local native trees was added to the list at the request of the Yerba Buena Chapter of the California Native Plant Society. That year also, many species were deleted, and some other new exotic ones added. The 2019 list included an expanded introduction with information about the list's relationship to local biodiversity and the climate crisis. The 2019 list also included a new expansive list of relevant weblinks for more information for the user. The [2021 list](#), published in June, was very similar to the 2019 list, only cleaning up a few elements and adding some more information on wildlife usage of the different tree species.

National Funding Initiative

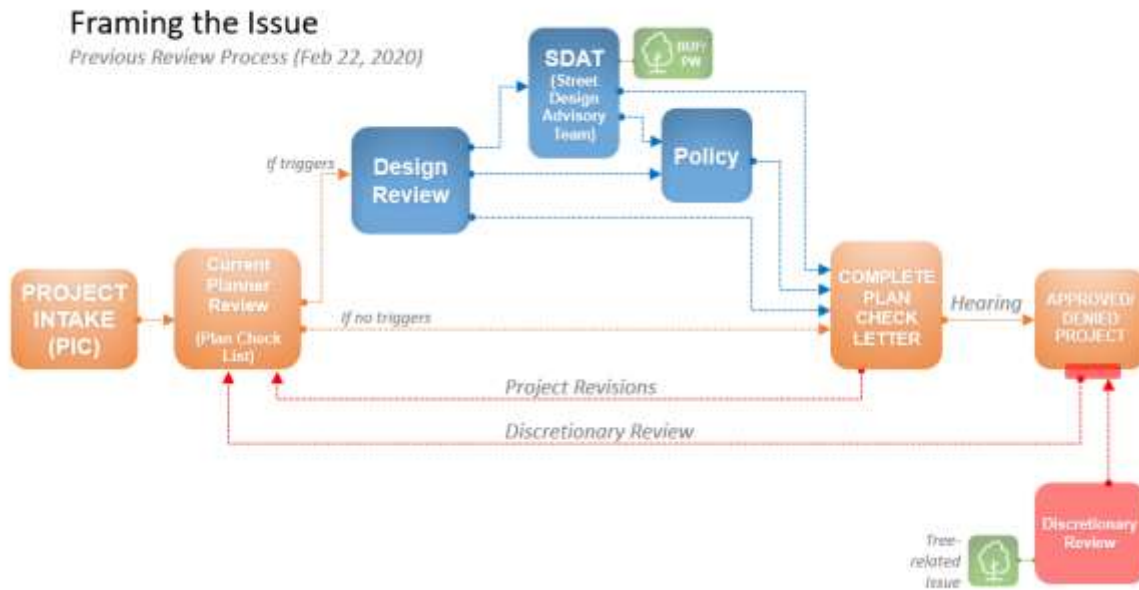
In October 2020, San Francisco was asked to participate in a multi-city federal funding advocacy initiative called [Trees for Community Recovery](#). The campaign has been led by the Urban Drawdown Initiative, American Forests, the Trust for Public Land, and the Urban Sustainability Directors Network. San Francisco was recruited and selected to be one of several "vanguard cities" that helped to paint a picture of the need for funding for urban forestry around the country. San Francisco Public Works assembled a comprehensive presentation that described how San Francisco is shovel-ready for federal funds for urban tree planting. As a result of the campaign, billions of dollars for urban and community forestry have been added to pending bills in Congress, which continues to debate passage of the Biden's \$3.5 trillion "Build Back Better" program.

Urban Forestry Council Review of Major Development Projects

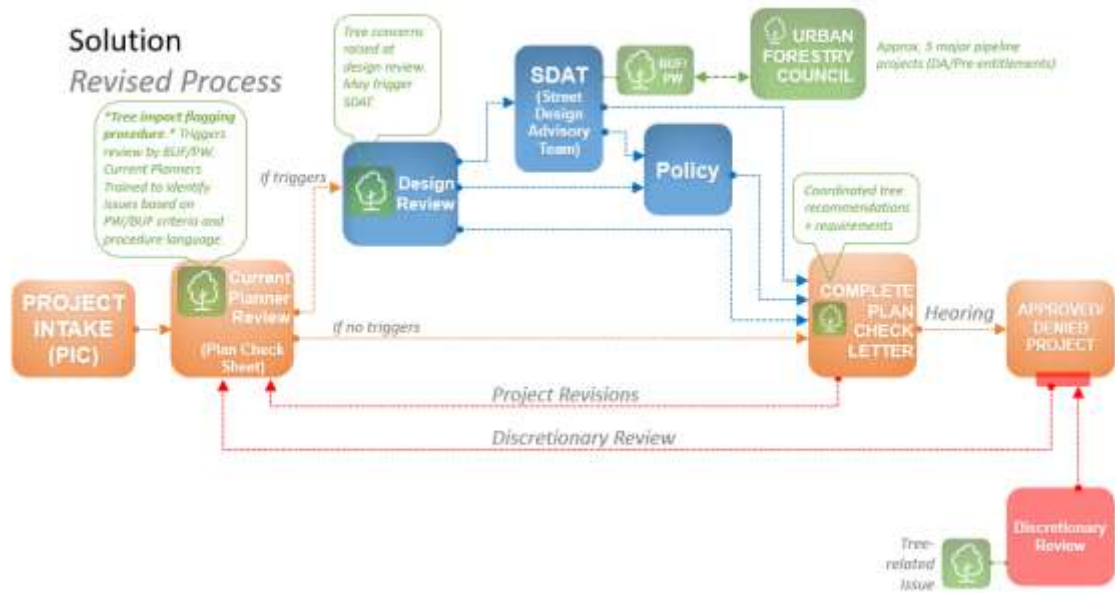
Chapter 12 of the Environment Code that governs the activities of the Urban Forestry Council, states that the UFC will "Review project plans for major publicly-sponsored developments and civic improvements and changes to the public right-of way as they may impact trees" and "make recommendations regarding these projects to the Planning Department and other affected agencies." Chapter 12 also explicitly directs the Council to "consider issues as they relate to trees on private property...in order to effectively address the whole of the urban forest."

In an effort to create a more standardized process for the review of major developments, the UFC worked with the Planning Department to identify gaps in the current project review process, so that more and earlier opportunities for discussions about trees could be incorporated. The UFC's Planning Department representative made a presentation to the UFC that included the following two slides that

illustrates the changes made to the project review process in order that potential impacts to trees are given more thorough consideration.



Figures 1 and 2: Before and after incorporation of more tree review into project review process.



Native Street Trees Study

San Francisco Public Works, Bureau of Urban Forestry and SF Environment deployed several interns to assess the health of local San Francisco native trees that currently grow amongst the street tree network. Public Works staff extracted the native street tree data from the dataset of 124,000 trees that were counted as part of the 2017 street tree census. An SF Public Works intern visited approximately

100 trees in 2019, and then in 2021, SF Environment interns visited the remainder of all 456 coast live oaks (*Quercus agrifolia*) using the phone app-based maps to collect data on every individual tree.

Species	Common Name	# in Census
<i>Quercus agrifolia</i>	coast live oak	456
<i>Heteromeles arbutifolia</i>	toyon or Christmas berry	63
<i>Aesculus californica</i>	California buckeye	42
<i>Acer macrophyllum</i>	big leaf maple	28
<i>Prunus ilicifolia</i>	holly-leaved cherry	17
<i>Salix lasiolepis</i>	arroyo willow	14
<i>Umbellularia californica</i>	California bay laurel	14

Figure 3: Number of individual native trees counted in the 2017 street tree census.

The interns collected observations on canopy health and the situational environmental characteristics of the tree, including the general setting (e.g., sidewalk, stairway, or hillside etc.), the street direction, the side of the street, sidewalk width, trunk size, and tree stature, among other fields. Luckily for the project, one of SFE’s interns was accomplished with GIS analysis and so performed preliminary analyses of the data comparing trees across the different fields. Overall, among the coast live oaks that were identified as alive (120 were added to the dataset during the site visits), a large majority of them were found to be in good condition with full canopies. The results will be reanalyzed in the near future, since the 113 trees that were found to be either potentially dead or missing or misidentified, need to be revisited to confirm some data fields in order to get a more complete picture. SF Environment and Public Works have also expanded data collection to other San Francisco native tree species, including toyon, California buckeye, and bay laurel.

Executive Summary of Report Findings

In its eighteenth year, the 2021 Annual Urban Forest Report provides an analysis of survey data from public, private, and nonprofit agencies that plant and/or maintain the urban forest within the City and County of San Francisco in Fiscal Year 2020-2021 (FY20-21). When possible, the analysis compares FY20-21 data with the previous five years of data, starting in FY14-15. Trends are identified through comparisons across all six years. Likert scale data were collected to identify trends in agency-perceived concerns with urban forestry in San Francisco as well as perceived limitations that affect their work and the urban forest. Agency data from the 2021 survey is provided in Tables 1-3 at the end of the report.

Staffing and funding emerged as the most significant issue reported for this year's Annual Urban Forest Report. Across all categories of this report, including in the *Concerns, Limitations* and in the *Major Opportunities and Challenges* section, the information gathered in 2021 indicates that agencies and organizations are highly concerned about their ability to accomplish their tree management responsibilities due to the challenge of staffing and funding levels. Most of the entities who provided information for the report, specifically cited the global pandemic of COVID-19 as playing a major role.

Findings demonstrate that overall urban forestry budgets and tree maintenance activities in San Francisco remained flat from FY18-19 to FY19-20. The overall number of trees planted increased significantly (from 3068 to 3955) compared to FY18-19. In fact, in FY19-20 a positive balance emerged – +356 – between trees planted and trees removed. Tree planting, thus, managed to keep up with tree removals, in contrast with FY18-19 when the negative balance was over 2000 trees. *StreetTreeSF* provides funding for street tree maintenance but does not fund tree planting. Public Works remains concerned about sustaining planting funding long-term. Friends of the Urban Forest continues to seek grant funding for street tree planting.



Photo courtesy SF Environment

Annual Survey Methods

San Francisco Department of the Environment (SFE) surveyed 22 City departments, other public agencies and universities, non-government organizations and PG&E, which oversee or manage a portion of the urban forest in San Francisco. Survey questions were the same as those used in previous years (see attachments) with just a couple more additions. Agencies were asked to provide information on budgets and staffing, maintenance activities, accomplishments, and concerns in FY20-21. Twenty-One agencies provided full or partial responses.

This data is tracked to:

1. Better understand the resources used to maintain the urban forest across the city.
2. Track agency priorities, needs, and concerns, and monitor how they change over time.
3. Better understand threats to the future well-being of our urban forest.
4. Find ways to increase the contributions that trees provide to our community.
5. Clarify which tree species are planted and why.

List of Participating Organizations

- California Department of Transportation, District 4 (Caltrans)
- City College of San Francisco (CCSF)
- Friends of the Urban Forest (FUF)
- Laguna Honda Hospital (LHH)
- Port of San Francisco (Port)
- Presidio Trust (Trust)
- Recreation and Park Department (RPD)
- San Francisco Housing Authority (SFHA)
- San Francisco International Airport (SFO)
- San Francisco Municipal Transportation Agency (SFMTA)
- San Francisco Planning Department (Planning)
- San Francisco Public Library (SFPL)
- San Francisco Public Utilities Commission (SFPUC)
- San Francisco Public Works, Bureau of Urban Forestry (SFPW)
- San Francisco State University (SFSU)
- San Francisco Unified School District (SFUSD)
- Treasure Island Development Authority (TIDA)
- University of California, San Francisco (UCSF)
- Pacific Gas and Electric (PG&E)
- San Francisco General Hospital (SFGH)
- Office of Community Investment and Infrastructure (OCII)

Primary Findings

The data provided by participating agencies for this report is compared to data provided since FY14-15. While participation is required by Chapter 12, Section 1209 of the San Francisco Environment Code, not all agencies participate in the survey each year. Trends identified in this section only include data from agencies that have reported in each of the last seven years, of which there are eleven:

- Friends of the Urban Forest (FUF)
- Port of San Francisco (Port)
- Recreation and Park Department (RPD)
- San Francisco International Airport (SFO)
- San Francisco Municipal Transportation Agency (SFMTA)
- San Francisco Public Utilities Commission (SFPUC)
- San Francisco Public Works, Bureau of Urban Forestry (SFPW)
- San Francisco State University (SFSU)
- San Francisco Unified School District (SFUSD)
- Treasure Island Development Authority (TIDA)
- University of California, San Francisco (UCSF)



Photo Courtesy SF Environment

Figure 4. Trees & Funding: Reported tree planting, maintenance and removal activities, and urban forestry budgets since FY14-15 (eleven agencies)

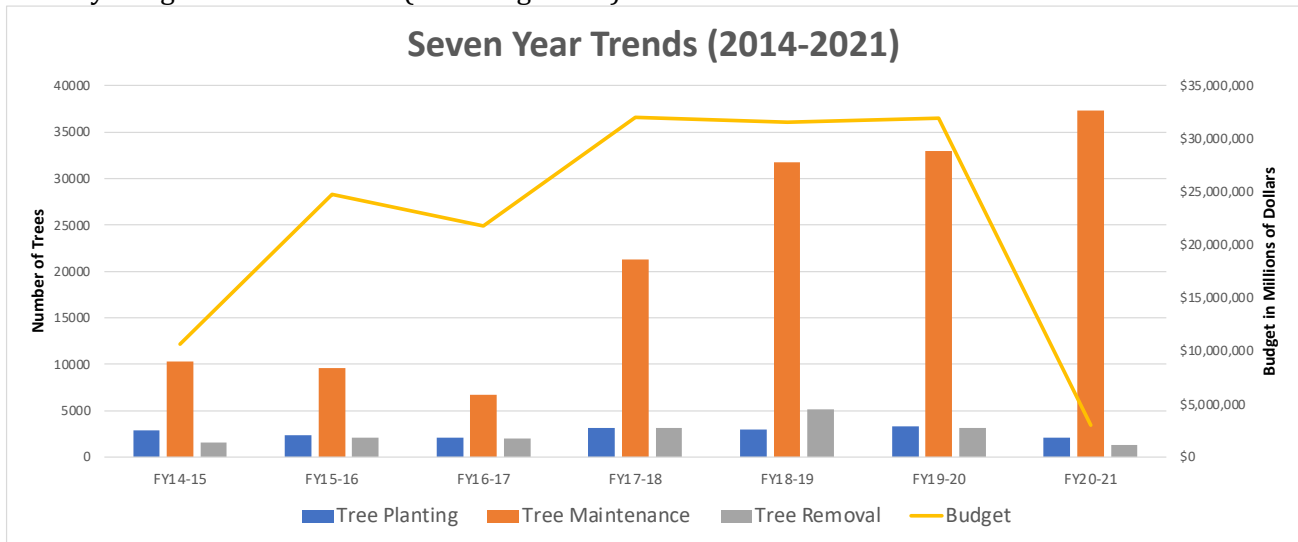


Figure 4 displays the trends of responses from eleven of the surveyed agencies since the FY 2014-2015. This data highlights a decrease in budgets from fiscal years 2020 to 2021, yet there was an increase in tree maintenance. There was a decline in tree removals from fiscal years 2020 to 2021.

Figure 5. Tree Planting & Removal Trends Since FY14-15

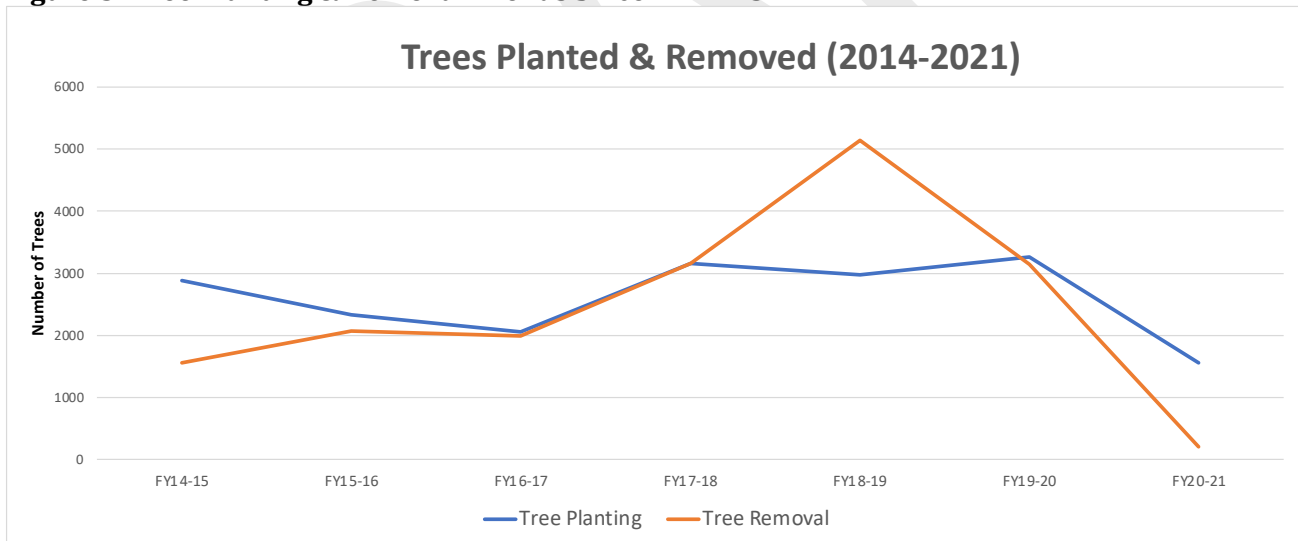


Figure 5 displays the trends of responses from eleven of the surveyed agencies since the FY 2014-2015. There was a large decrease in tree removals from FY 19-20 to FY 20-21, due to both budget constraints and recent completion of priority removals in previous fiscal years. Tree planting saw a decrease from fiscal years 2020 to 2021, likely due to budget constraints and drought conditions.



Photo Courtesy SF Environment

Current Street Tree Estimate

*EveryTreeSF**, a complete street tree inventory, was conducted between 2013-2017 and identified 124,795 (over 20,000 more than previous estimates) street and median trees throughout San Francisco.

Based on the reported data on street tree planting and removal by San Francisco Public Works and Friends of the Urban Forest, the current total number of street trees as of June 30, 2020, is estimated at 123,017. In fiscal years 17-18 through 19-20, 7,174 new street trees were planted and 8,952 were removed.

The goal of the *San Francisco Urban Forest Plan: Phase 1 Street Trees*, was for planting 50,000 trees by 2034. Tree planting activities will need to continue to increase to surpass the 2017 baseline.

The Key Recommendations from the Urban Forest Master Plan Phase 1: Street Trees, are:

1. Maximize the benefits of street trees;
2. Increase the street tree population with 50,000 new trees by 2035;
3. Establish and fund a citywide street tree maintenance program;
4. Manage street trees throughout their entire life-cycle.

With the implementation of *StreetTreeSF*, the third and fourth recommendations are being met. Meanwhile, the City continues to struggle to meet the second recommendation of increasing the street tree population due to the need to remove dead and diseased trees, though tree removal did decrease significantly from fiscal year 18-19. The Urban Forestry Council is actively working on the first recommendation as part of implementation of their 2019 Strategic Plan.

Common Concerns & Limitations

Survey respondents scored common concerns and limitations for their agencies and organizations. Figures 6 and 7 display levels of concern for all responses in 2021.

Figure 6. Concerns: Responses to common concerns

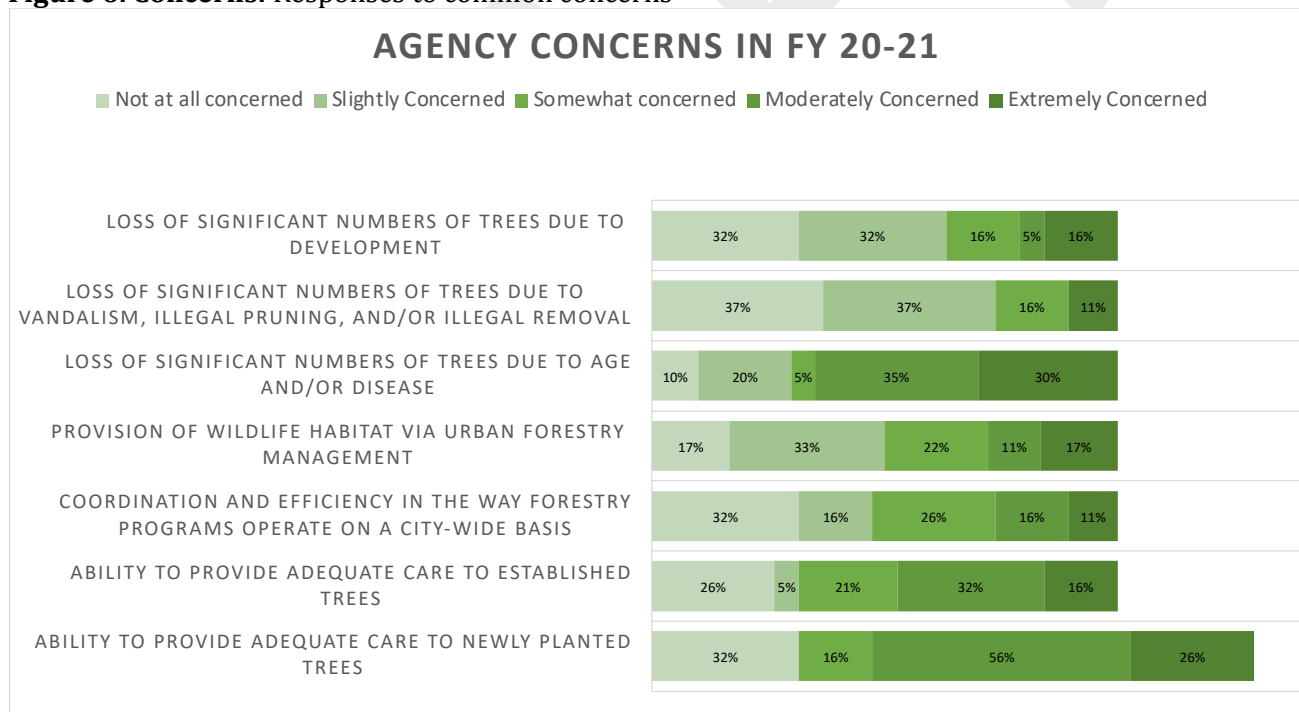


Figure 6 displays the responses of 19 surveyed agencies to common concerns, except for “Provision of Wildlife Habitat via Urban Forestry Management”, which reflects the responses of 18 surveyed agencies, and “Loss of Significant Numbers of Trees due to Age and/or Disease”, which reflects the responses of 20 surveyed agencies. The data demonstrates that agencies are very concerned about the ability to provide adequate care to newly planted trees, as well as the loss of significant numbers of trees due to age and/or disease. Specific information regarding agency concerns about pests and diseases is highlighted in Table 3. Agencies remain concerned about their ability to provide adequate care for established trees.

Figure 7. Limitations: Responses to common limitations

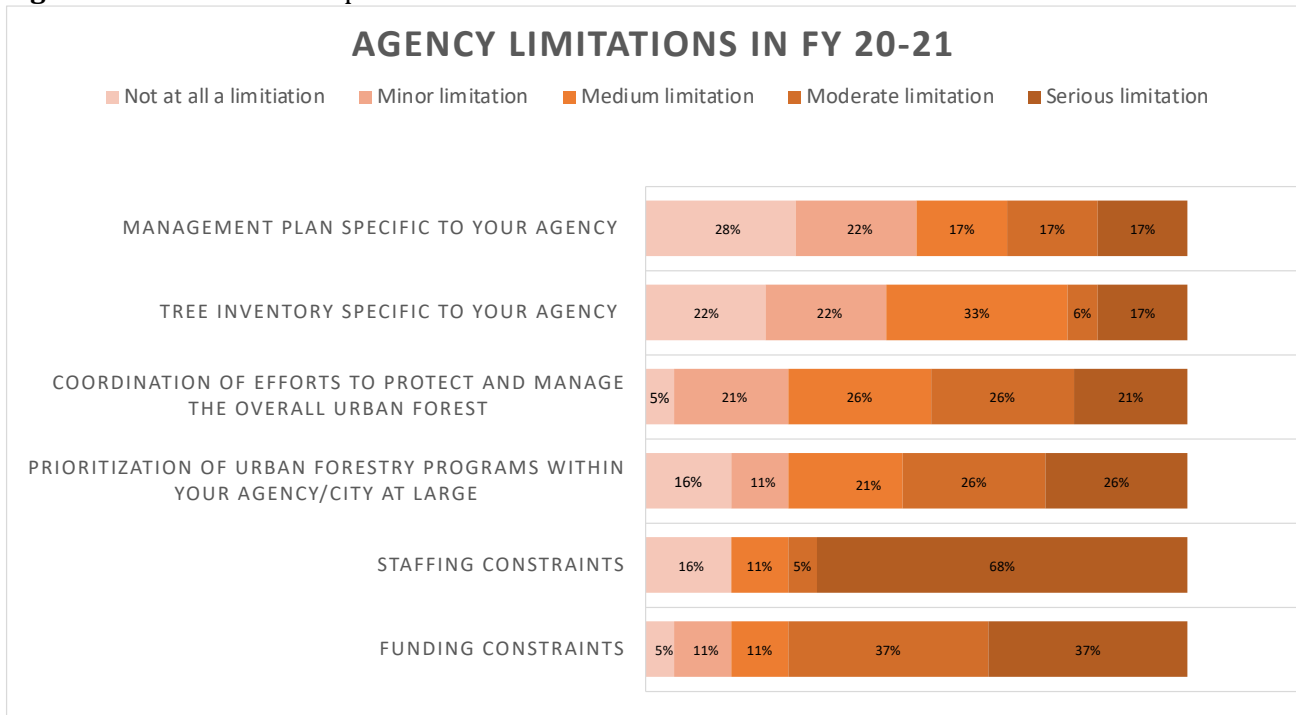


Figure 7 displays the responses of 19 surveyed agencies to common limitations, except for “Tree Inventory” and “Management Plan” which reflect the responses of 18 surveyed agencies. 68% of agencies reported staffing constraints as a serious limitation in FY 20-21. Funding constraints were reported by 74% of respondents to be a serious or moderate limitation. 73% of agencies reported prioritization of urban forestry to be at least a medium limitation. Agencies’ limitations are further explained in Opportunities and Challenges.

General Liability Claims

This is the fourth year that questions about tree-related general liability claims were included in the survey. The goal is to identify other costs City departments and other forest-managing agencies incur in their tree managing activities, and to track how tree care and maintenance may factor into the number and costs of these claims. FUF reported one liability claim for FY 20-21, which was one payout for \$4,900. UCSF reported 3 claims for FY 20-21 amounting to \$9,000 with an average payout of \$500.

Reported Opportunities and Challenges

Management of San Francisco's urban forest is shared among many agencies and their partners to provide direct care to trees within their respective jurisdictions. The following provides general background about each agency or organization and highlights or quotes specific information they reported in their FY20/21 survey responses.



Photo Courtesy SF Environment

Friends of the Urban Forest (FUF) helps individuals and neighborhood groups plant and care for street trees and sidewalk gardens in San Francisco. They host an average of nine interns per year, and they have trained volunteers who lead less experienced volunteers to plant and prune trees. They have workforce development programs that train young adults with minimal work experience how to plant and care for trees.

FUF continues to search for new species that tolerate prolonged drought, rising temperatures, pests, and pathogens. They also continue to plant a wide variety of trees to maximize species diversity to create an urban forest that has resilience against known invasive pests, such as Invasive Shot Hole Borers (ISHB). FUF reports a substantial increase in materials cost and reduced availability of nursery stock in FY20-21.

COVID-19 had a large impact upon FUF's urban forestry program. It forced them to halt all operations for an extended period and **has slowed a planned expansion to achieve their goals in the SF Urban Forest Plan**. At the beginning of the year, FUF staff completed 100% of planting until experienced volunteers returned mid-year. Growing concerns over COVID have delayed the full return of their robust volunteer programs. Despite increasing vaccination rates among staff, employees continue to be exposed to COVID outside of work, resulting in periods of time that some operations must stop because one or more staff must quarantine.

Despite COVID induced budget cuts, FUF was able to maintain all their programs and all filled positions. Although they did not lay off any employees, they were not able to fill some vacant positions. This had a substantial impact on several programs and resulted in a reduced ability to maintain relationships with existing partners and lay the groundwork for new collaborations and creative outreach strategies.

In a major milestone, FUF successfully hired a new Executive Director. After 13 years Dan Flanagan is passing the torch to Brian Wiedenmeier, formerly of the SF Bike Coalition. Increased local government funding for tree planting in San Francisco for FY21-22 was an exciting accomplishment and will allow them to rehire vacant positions and to expand their tree care programs.

Additionally, FUF's nascent watering program expanded significantly this year. They started the year watering 70 trees once a week and have since increased to watering 500 trees on their weekly watering route. They have also begun watering every tree they plant on the day it's planted.

In FY20-21, FUF has focused on improving internal business systems to support an efficient workforce and the expansion of programs. They report continued work towards achieving the tree planting goals in the SF Urban Forest Plan. Furthermore, they are increasingly incorporating community feedback into their planting goals, as part of a focus on environmental justice and equity. FUF reports work on increasing resources towards the development of stronger collaborations between FUF and residents, CBOs, and city departments. This is to create a more place-based tree planting strategy and to tailor their hiring practices so that their staff demographics reflect the communities in which they plant.

They continue to be concerned about stable long-term funding for tree planting, care, and watering to be able to achieve those goals.

The **California Department of Transportation District 4** (CalTrans) manages trees and green spaces on State rights-of-way in the Bay Area and works with the Adopt-A-Highway division to allow neighborhood groups access to land for community gardening and planting trees. Private and public groups also apply for encroachment permits to plant trees. Caltrans works with CalFire and the U.S. Forestry to assist with the maintenance of its lands. In the last fiscal year, CalTrans moved the **Development of** Office of Vegetation and Wildfire Management (OVWM) under a new Division of Emergency Operations and Vegetation Management. Caltrans remains concerned for staffing constraints, care for newly planted trees, and loss of trees due to age and disease.

City College of San Francisco (CCSF) reports that they consider climate change and biodiversity in their tree planting selection, and they also follow the SF Plant Finder and their own sustainability guidelines. CCSF has a very limited number of staff that work on tree planting and maintenance due to a lack of funding. Volunteers also help with tree care. COVID has caused problems with funding, staffing, programs, and operations. CCSF is highly concerned about a lack of staff and funding, and being able to provide adequate care for the trees on their campus. They are concerned about tree health because of struggles with drought, fungus, and tree cankers.

Laguna Honda Hospital (LHH) is a San Francisco Department of Public Health facility with a 62-acre campus containing approximately 3,000 trees, 80 percent of which are within open space areas. Gardeners maintain campus grounds and purchase plants and trees according to campus needs. LHH selects tree species for drought tolerance and uses native species for planting. If hazards or other problems arise with trees on their grounds, work is contracted out for maintenance or removals.

The **Office of Community Investment and Infrastructure** (OCII) is the local successor agency to the San Francisco Redevelopment Agency. Each of OCII's project areas requires a wide variety of trees to be planted. OCII does not experiment with new species and requires everything to comply with approved species and the goals established by the San Francisco Biodiversity Policy Resolution 004-17-COE. OCII does not keep track of the number of trees they plant, maintain, or remove.

Pacific Gas and Electric Company (PG&E) works with property owners to resolve conflicts between trees and power lines. Their Routine Distribution Vegetation Management Department handles necessary tree pruning and tree removals of trees that are dead, dying, and/or hazards to electrical facilities. They refer customers to their list of compatibles species to be planted near power lines if they ask about tree recommendations for planting, as the Department does not plant trees. PG&E reports an increase in dead and dying trees near PG&E facilities in FY20-21. They remain concerned about the loss of trees due to age and/or disease and the increased need for tree removals for compliance and safety.

The **Port of San Francisco** (Port) manages the trees along the San Francisco Bay waterfront. They select trees for the largest potential canopy growth and for greatest biodiversity benefits for birds, pollinators, and other such organisms. COVID caused a brief disruption in park maintenance, but the Port has caught up and been fully staffed since then. This year the Port completed Crane Cove Park which included the planting of 95 trees, hundreds of shrubs and two large turf areas. The Port is concerned about drought in addition to funding and staffing constraints.

The **Presidio Trust** (Trust) oversees approximately 70,000 trees (10,000 of which are actively managed) in the Presidio of San Francisco, the 1,491-acre National Historic Landmark District located within the Golden Gate National Recreation Area, which is managed by the National Park Service. In the past few years, the Trust has started planting native understory and ground-story species in the park's restoration sites, with the goal of improving species diversity and habitat availability. The Trust is also increasing efforts to reuse wood waste within the park's boundaries. They are very concerned about drought, as well as the reduction in funding due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Volunteers are used for weed abatement and maintenance.

The **Recreation and Parks Department** (RPD) maintains over 3,400 acres of open space with an estimated 131,000 trees in San Francisco. This includes large eucalyptus plantations at Mount Davidson, Mount Sutro, and Glen Canyon and diverse tree stands across Golden Gate, McLaren, and other parks--including the native coast live oak woodlands in Golden Gate Park, Buena Vista Park, and Lake Merced, which RPD manages under work order with the SFPUC. RPD has concerns regarding growing/locating tree stock, adequate staffing, funding, and vandalism. Additionally, there is concern that all park trees are struggling due to age, disease, and construction.

The **San Francisco Housing Authority** (SFHA) has a maintenance agreement with Public Works to maintain trees around residences on SFHA land. Housing facilities are undergoing redevelopment and being newly managed by third party non-profit and for-profit developers, depending on the site. Demolition will be phased, and a new landscape project will be designed by the developers. In the meantime, they are not replanting trees. Demolition at two of their sites are impacting trees. SFHA's main concern this year has been to respond to emergencies and provide safe housing to residents during COVID. SFHA is concerned about a lack of funding and staffing and their ability to provide adequate care and maintenance for the trees on their land.

The **San Francisco International Airport** (SFO) manages open space, bay shoreline, trees, landscaped areas, and endangered species habitat surrounding the airport facilities. SFO is concerned about redwoods due to drought tolerance issues and is planting more native trees and understory where they

can. SFO reports issues with oak caterpillars and have been regularly releasing predatory insects. Due to COVID, SFO has been operating under restricted budget and purchasing ability, and the resulting staff shortages have been challenging. Therefore, they have mainly focused their efforts on maintaining existing plants. They are particularly concerned about drought and associated plant stress.

The **San Francisco Municipal Transportation Agency (SFMTA)** has limited staff working on tree care and maintenance. They work with SF Public Works to help care for some of their trees. This year posed increased challenges due to a high loss of staff. SFMTA's tree care mainly consists of tree pruning. SFMTA remains concerned about providing adequate care for trees and maintaining tree health amongst drought conditions.

The **San Francisco Planning Department (Planning)** has developed policies, studies, and plans to support the long-term health of the city's urban forest. The Planning Department's Data & Analytics Group has provided data and geographic information system (GIS) support to various members of the Urban Forestry Council and the Department of Public Works. Generally, the work involves providing and visualizing datasets of San Francisco's urban canopy cover and mapped street trees. Planning has also provided technical and design assistance for the Street Tree Nursery project with the Department of Public Works.

In 2021, Planning made process improvements to the Plan Check List and Plan Check Letter process to ensure early review of all projects that either remove, add, and/or relocate a street tree, or if construction is occurring within the dripline of a significant tree, regardless of the project size. This process improvement detects projects at intake for tree impacts and reroutes the project for adequate tree impact review to Public Works Staff. This interagency effort involved Planning Department Staff from Citywide and Current Planning as well as staff from Public Works, Bureau of Urban Forestry, and Department of the Environment. The issues detected may be escalated for review by the Urban Forestry Council depending on the complexity or level of impact to trees by a project (this includes but is not limited to major multi-phase projects and projects on complex, steeply sloped terrains).

The Planning Department has focused its environmental efforts in FY20-21 toward Racial and Social Equity and Environmental Justice, especially considering the impacts of COVID-19 and the advent of Planning's new Racial and Social Equity Division. The work feeds into the San Francisco General Plan's new Environmental Justice Element and takes a comprehensive approach to environmental impacts (air quality, sea-level rise, canopy cover, etc.), their geographies, and the populations and demographics they impact. The Department continues its efforts to address climate change, through its sustainability and resilience work under the Climate Action Plan, specifically, the natural gas ban ordinance (addressing Green House Gas emissions), the Department's Sustainable Neighborhood Framework, and several of other projects.

The **San Francisco Public Library (SFPL)** oversees outside care of their green spaces and street trees. Their urban forestry budget is sourced from the Library Preservation Fund and goes toward employing RPD gardeners to care for the Library's trees and greenery. SF Public Works manages all the Library's street trees and determines appropriate species for the Library's green spaces. SFPL reports the pending removal of 17 Ficus trees at the Main Library due to safety and maintenance issues. Public Works has advised them in the past that Red Maple trees would thrive in the harsh and wet conditions at the Main Library, where there are daily sidewalk cleanings due to high amounts of feces and urine. SFPL is concerned about losing trees to age, disease, and vandalism.

The **San Francisco Public Utilities Commission (SFPUC)** manages trees and green space around reservoirs. They have partnered with the San Francisco Conservation Corp to teach young adults how to garden and help them develop hard and soft skills required in the work force. They also have a path

to complete their High School diploma. SFPUC reports a decline in the health of Eucalyptus and Monterey Pine trees and reports a dedication to revegetating with California Natives. This past year SFPUC planted a new native garden at Summit Reservoir. SFPUC is concerned about drought, fuel breaks along residential corridors and the lack of funding and staffing due to COVID.

San Francisco Public Works, Bureau of Urban Forestry (SFPW) provides oversight and care to trees within the City's public rights-of way, including planting and maintaining street trees, issuing street tree planting and removal and sidewalk landscaping permits to residents, and responding to emergency street tree issues. Public Works relies on public service trainee and apprenticeship programs for workforce development and includes workforce development as a requirement for their non-profit planting grant partners. Those partners in turn rely on volunteer support. Public Works considers climate change by identifying and planting species that are robust urban candidates and able to withstand hotter, drier conditions and longer drought durations. They consider biodiversity and wildlife habitat, albeit as a secondary consideration to survivability and suitability as a street tree as the primary lens. In open spaces, native species play a key role in their planting palette.

The pandemic immediately impacted Public Works' programs by suspending contractor work for about a month as new protocols were created, and compliance plans implemented. Internal crews continued to work and were able to refocus on maintenance as service request volume dropped significantly. However, the Tree Maintenance Fund which fuels the StreetTreeSF program was impacted by a Citywide budget deficit, hiring freeze and deferred capital expenditures. Administrative and permit hearings were paused for months while a suitable online format was established. The Bureau contributed broadly to the City's COVID-19 response through staff reassignment as Disaster Service Workers and through contracted work to support numerous public health initiatives.

StreetTreeSF successfully completed all the "Worst First" areas identified at the start of the program which had the greatest need and density. This is reflected in the sharp decrease in tree removal (46% from the previous fiscal year) as the program transitions from the Worst First to bringing the balance of the City's urban forest to a baseline standard of care. The Bureau's tree removal work receives significant public scrutiny through the posting and hearing process that allows for input on multiple levels. To facilitate this communication, the Bureau created a new Tree Removal Notification page grouped by Supervisor District.

San Francisco State University (SFSU) manages an urban forest that provides a network of windbreaks, bird nesting habitat, and sheltered courtyards. SFSU does try to maintain wildlife habitat when they can by leaving places for hawks and owls to nest around campus. SFSU's main concern when selecting trees species is survivability and maintenance levels, with climate change, biodiversity, and wildlife habitat being lower priorities. Due to pandemic layoffs and related staff resignations, SFSU no longer has dedicated tree personnel. Students are used for specific projects, grounds staff prune dead and broken branches from the ground, and any other necessary tree work is contracted out to a commercial company. SFSU is very concerned about their low tree budget.

The **San Francisco Unified School District (SFUSD)** provides care and maintenance for approximately 3,000 trees on 430 acres of school district property. Drought and lack of funding to tend current trees is a major concern. In 2019, SFUSD reported that they consider climate when selecting tree species, but not so much climate change. In 2020 and 2021, SFUSD reported that they do not consider climate change when selecting tree species.

The **Treasure Island Development Authority (TIDA)** oversees the care of all trees on Treasure Island (TI) and most trees on Yerba Buena Island (YBI) (excepting the U.S. Coast Guard property). Tree species

for planting on Yerba Buena Island are selected consistent with the YBI Habitat Management Plan, which considers trees in the context of the larger natural environment and native plant communities of Yerba Buena Island. TIDA's contractor Rubicon Landscape provides master landscape services, natural areas management support, and develops related employment opportunities for SF and Island residents. TIDA also utilizes interns through existing programs such as Opportunities for All, Project Pull, and SF Environment for natural areas and urban forest-related project support. Community volunteers extend support through the TI/YBI Volunteer Stewardship Program on public volunteer stewardship days. TIDA's urban forestry-related budget is sourced from leasing revenue and project financing. COVID-19 has not impacted TIDA's ability to manage trees on the islands. TIDA reports further improvement of coordinated natural areas management, including focusing on tree-specific areas of concern. They are providing ongoing care on TI/YBI for several *Quercus agrifolia*, *Aesculus californica*, and olive trees. TIDA reports the removal of many trees this year due to development grading activities and the needed removal of dead trees. They remain concerned about the impact of humans on the natural environment of TI/YBI and providing adequate care for newly planted trees.

The **University of California, San Francisco (UCSF)** owns and manages a 61-acre open space area called the Mount Sutro Open Space Reserve that is adjacent and to the south of the Parnassus Heights campus. UCSF is committed to maintaining the Reserve as a safe and accessible resource that San Francisco residents and visitors can enjoy. UCSF has limited full-time urban forestry staff, and uses Conservation Corps, Golden Gate Audubon Society, and the Sutro Stewards to help care for the Reserve. UCSF reports that COVID restrictions impacted the planting season by preventing staff from finishing UCSF's planting goals. UCSF is concerned about the lack of rain and water to plant trees and maintain them amidst ongoing climate change. Additionally, they are concerned about struggling Acacia trees due to Diaporthe and Dothiorella, as well as struggling Eucalyptus seedlings from Anthracnose. Staffing constraints remain a serious limitation for UCSF's management of its natural areas.

San Francisco General Hospital (SFGH) is a San Francisco Department of Public Health facility that serves as the city's only trauma hospital and serves over 100,000 patients a year. SFGH does select trees for climate and biodiversity. This past year SFGH has encountered issues with pine bark beetles and aphids. They have major concerns regarding funding and the loss of trees due to age and vandalism.

Annual Survey Response Data

The following entities responded to the survey with information provided in Tables 1, 2 and 3.

<u>Agency</u>	<u>Abbreviation</u>	<u>Agency</u>	<u>Abbr.</u>
California Department of Transportation	Caltrans	San Francisco Municipal Transportation Agency	SFMTA
City College of San Francisco	CCSF	San Francisco Public Library	SFPL
Friends of the Urban Forest	FUF	San Francisco Public Utilities Commission	SFPUC
Laguna Honda Hospital (Department of Public Health)	LHH	San Francisco Public Works	SFPW
Pacific Gas and Electric	PG&E	San Francisco Planning Department	Planning
Port of San Francisco	PORT	San Francisco Recreation & Parks Department	RPD
Presidio Trust	Trust	San Francisco State University	SFSU
San Francisco Housing Authority	SFHA	San Francisco Unified School District	SFUSD
San Francisco International Airport	SFO	Treasure Island Development Authority	TIDA
San Francisco General Hospital	SFGH	University of California at San Francisco	UCSF

Table 1. Staffing & Budgets

Agency	Urban forestry-related staff positions	FTE equivalent staff performing forestry work	Total department budget*	Urban forestry-related budget*
Caltrans	8	4	-	-
CCSF	3	0	\$300,000,000	\$10,000
FUF	23	20	\$3,405,200	\$2,166,071
LHH	0	0	-	\$0
Port	3	0.5	\$120,000	\$100,000
PG&E	8	1	-	-
Trust	10	8	-	\$1,980,000
RPD	34	15	-	-
SFHA	0	0	\$19,873,333	\$0
SFO	11	1.5	-	\$10,000
SFGH	3	0.5	-	-
SFMTA	0	3	-	-
SFPL	0	0	\$171,222,254	\$608,943
SFPUC	0	0	\$816,000,000	\$0
SFPW				
Planning	-	0.15	-	\$35,000
SFSU	1	0	\$500,000	\$120,000
SFUSD	0	0	\$1,000,750	\$60,000
TIDA	3	0	\$26,000,000	\$60,000

UCSF	2.5	2	\$5,000,000	\$1,600,000
TOTALS	88.5	54.65	\$1,343,121,537	\$6,750,014

*Several surveyed agencies did not submit data for “Total department budget” or “Urban forestry-related budget” presumably because the staff who filled out the survey did not have the information.

Table 2. Tree Activities

Agency	Planted	Maintained	Removed	Work performed FOR others (P-planted, M-maintained, R-removed)	Work performed BY others (P-planted, M-maintained, R-removed)
Caltrans	-	400	150	CalFire, US Forestry Service	CalFire
CCSF	0	500	10	-	Davey Tree Service
FUF	1130	3832	0	SF Public Works (P-1130, M-3832)	-
LHH	0	1000	0	-	-
Port	96	376	27	-	DPW
PG&E	0	1700	50	-	-
Trust	200	267	143	-	-
RPD	204	366	50	-	-
SFHA	0	50	3	-	The Davy Tree Expert Company
SFO	20	300	10	-	Caltrans (P-20, M-100)
SFGH	15	100	28	-	-
SFMTA	0	30	5	-	SFPW/BUF (M-10)
SFPL	-	-	-	-	-
SFPUC	3	40	12	-	-
SFPW					
Planning	-	-	-	-	-
SFSU	5	2000	5	A Plus Tree Service (M-7, R-2), Professional Tree Care (R-1)	-
SFUSD	40	325	10	-	-

TIDA	1	20	76	-	Treasure Island Community Development (P-0, M-14, R-75), Julian Tree Care (P-0, M-2, R-1), JTS Tree Care: P-0, M-5, R-0), Rubicon Landscape (P-1, M-1, R-0)
UCSF	527	30,000	1,063	-	-
TOTALS	2,241	40,906	1,4		

Table 3. Species Selection & Diversity

Agency	Most Common Species Planted	Struggling Species & Pests	Experimental Species
Caltrans	Oak	<i>Eucalyptus</i> spp.	Design staff researching drought tolerant species
CCSF	-	All species struggling. Fungus and Tree Canker.	None
FUF	Tristania laurina, Olea europaea 'Wilsoni', Eriobotrya deflexa, Lophostemon confertus	Many struggling Cassia leptophyllal. Aphids are common on Magnolias and Strawberry Trees. Olives struggle in warm areas without sufficient water and grow with very poor structure. We see aphid/scale infestations regularly which are accompanied by ants, commonly comorbid.	None
LHH	-	-	-
Port	Alnus Rhombifolia, Robinia x 'Purple Robe', Fraxinus o. 'Raywood'	Phoenix canariensis, canary island palms failure on the Embarcadero Waterfront caused by Fusarium Wilt. Costly to remove and replace. We no longer plant this species but replace with other	Rhus Lancea, Robinia x 'Purple Robe', Alnus Rhombifolia

Agency	Most Common Species Planted	Struggling Species & Pests	Experimental Species
		palms that won't be affected by the Fusarium Wilt.	
PG&E	-	Dead and dying Pine and Eucalyptus trees. All types of Palm trees are struggling.	-
Trust	Hesperocyparis Macrocarpa (Monterey Cypress)	Pinus Radiata (Pine Pitch Canker)	N/A
RPD	Pine, Cypress	All park's tree species struggling due to age, disease, and construction	None
SFHA	N/A	Unknown	None
SFO	Coast Live Oak (<i>Quercus agrifolia</i>), California Buckeye (<i>Aesculus californica</i>)	Redwoods are struggling due to drought.	None
SFGH	Cercis Occidentalis, Podocarpus e. Icee Blue, Prosopis Chilensis	Monterey Pines are struggling due to Pine Bark Beetle.	Parkinsonia aculeata, X Chiranthodendron lenzii Griffs Wonder, Chilopsis linaris
SFMTA	-	-	-
SFPL	-	Ficus trees are struggling due to maintenance challenges	None
SFPUC	Stone Pine	Monterey Pine and Cypress	None
SFPW			
Planning	-	-	-
SFSU	Cupressus macrocarpa (Monterey Cypress), Cedrus deodora (Deodor Cedar), Japanese maple varieties	Avoidance of Pines, due to Pine pitch canker and borers which were prevalent on the campus. We also avoid most Eucalyptus species due to their summer limb drop,	None

Agency	Most Common Species Planted	Struggling Species & Pests	Experimental Species
		tendency to break, and messiness. We no longer plant Black Acacia due to their brittle nature and the need for continuous maintenance.	
SFUSD	Redwood, Melaleuca, Indian Hawthorn	Ficus trees struggle with splitting, Monterey Pines struggle with Borers, Myoporums struggle with Thrips	None
TIDA	California Buckeye	N/A	None
UCSF	Coast Live Oaks	Eucalyptus trees struggling due to drought and Anthracnose. Lost many seedlings planted in 2019. Acacias struggling from Diaporthe and Dothiorella.	Tomatella Oak, Coulter Pine, Ponderosa Pine, Bishop Pine, Tecate Cypress, Santa Cruz Cypress, Madrones, Ulmus Accolade, Quercus Frainetto

DRAFT

Attachment 1: 2020/2021 Annual Survey Questions

Sent to the following agencies and entities that physically manage trees. In addition to the questions listed below from the 2020/2021 survey, agencies were asked about COVID-19 impacts and for further information about diseases.

- California Department of Transportation, District 4 (Caltrans)
- City College of San Francisco (CCSF)
- Friends of the Urban Forest (FUF)
- Golden Gate National Recreation Area (GGNRA)
- Laguna Honda Hospital (LHH)
- Office of Community Investment and Infrastructure (OCII)
- Pacific Gas and Electric (PG&E)
- Port of San Francisco (Port)
- Presidio Trust (Trust)
- Recreation and Park Department (RPD)
- San Francisco General Hospital (SFGH)
- San Francisco Housing Authority (SFHA)
- San Francisco International Airport (SFO)
- San Francisco Municipal Transportation Agency (SFMTA)
- San Francisco Planning Department (Planning)
- San Francisco Public Library (SFPL)
- San Francisco Public Utilities Commission (SFPUC)
- San Francisco Public Works, Bureau of Urban Forestry (SFPW)
- San Francisco State University (SFSU)
- San Francisco Unified School District (SFUSD)
- Treasure Island Development Authority (TIDA)
- University of California, San Francisco (UCSF)

Annual Urban Forest Report Survey (2020–2021)

Pursuant to Chapter 12, Section 1209 of the Environment Code, the Department of the Environment is surveying your organization's forestry program work during the 2020/201 fiscal year. Thank you for your participation in this process.

Please Return By 09/11/2021

1 I – IV

2 V

3 VI – X

I. Agency Information

Agency Name *

Bureau/Department Name *

Contact Person Name *

First

Last

Contact Person Title *

Contact Phone Number

 - -

###

###

####

Email *

Website

II. Workforce

a. How many urban forestry-related staff positions does your organization have?

b. How many full-time equivalent staff positions work only on tree planting, care, and removal?

c. Do you use volunteers or interns or do you have some form of a workforce development program? Please explain.

III. Budget

a. What is your organization's total budget?

b. What is your urban forestry-related budget?

c. What is the source of funds for your urban forestry-related budget? e.g., general fund, fees, special tax, grants etc.

d. Does your urban forestry related budget fund anything other than tree care (such as education or lawn and shrub care)?

- No
 Yes

e. If "yes," please estimate the percentage or amount of funding listed in your urban forestry related budget (above) spent specifically on tree planting and maintenance.

IV. Health and Diversity of the Urban Forest

a. Which are the three most common species of trees you planted this fiscal year?

b. Are there any species you feel are struggling in San Francisco, or species you have decided no longer to plant? Please explain why.

c. Did you experiment with planting any new or less common species this year? If so, what were they?

d. Are you considering climate change, biodiversity and wildlife habitat when selecting your tree species? Please explain.

e. Pests: Are you experiencing any noteworthy pest problems? Please elaborate if you have information to share.



V. Tree Care (planting, maintenance, and removals)

a. How many trees were planted, cared for, and removed within your organization's jurisdiction in FY2020–21?

Do not include tree care performed for other entities by your agency.

Planted

Cared For**

Removed*

***Please describe reasons for tree removals**

****Cared For/Maintained Elaboration**

Please explain further what the number above represents, e.g., the number of trees pruned, or the number of trees under general care throughout the year.

b. If your organization performed urban forestry related work for another entity during the past year, please provide the requested information below. Leave blank if not applicable.

Entity 1 Information

Entity 1 Name

Entity 1 Planted

Entity 1 Cared For

Entity 1 Removed

Entity 2 information

Entity 2 Name

Entity 2 Planted

Entity 2 Cared For

Entity 2 Removed

Entity 3 information

Entity 3 Name

Entity 3 Planted

Entity 3 Cared For

Entity 3 Removed

Entity 4 information

Entity 4 Name

Entity 4 Planted

Entity 4 Cared For

Entity 4 Removed

c. If another entity performed urban forest related work for your organization during the past year, please provide the requested information below. Leave blank if not applicable.

Entity 1 information

Entity 1 Name

Entity 1 Planted

Entity 1 Cared For

Entity 1 Removed

Entity 2 information

Entity 2 Name

Entity 2 Planted

Entity 2 Cared For

Entity 2 Removed

Entity 3 information

Entity 3 Name

Entity 3 Planted

Entity 3 Cared For

Entity 3 Removed

Entity 4 information

Entity 4 Name

Entity 4 Planted

Entity 4 Cared For

Entity 4 Removed

VI. Fiscal Year General Liability Claims

Please answer the questions below if any general liability claims made against your agency due to issues related to trees.

For example, trip and falls on exposed roots or branch failures that damaged persons or personal property.

a. Total general liability claims related to trees

b. Total number of paid general liability claims related to trees

c. Average dollar amount of tree-related claims paid

VII. Concerns & Limitations

Many organizations have reported similar concerns related to the urban forest and similar limitations when attempting to address these concerns. We are tracking these concerns and limitations over time to identify trends.

a. Concerns:

	not at all concerned	slightly concerned	somewhat concerned	moderately concerned	extremely concerned
Ability to provide adequate care to newly planted trees	<input type="radio"/> 1	<input type="radio"/> 2	<input type="radio"/> 3	<input type="radio"/> 4	<input type="radio"/> 5
Ability to provide adequate care to established trees	<input type="radio"/> 1	<input type="radio"/> 2	<input type="radio"/> 3	<input type="radio"/> 4	<input type="radio"/> 5
Coordination and efficiency in the way forestry programs operate on a city-wide basis	<input type="radio"/> 1	<input type="radio"/> 2	<input type="radio"/> 3	<input type="radio"/> 4	<input type="radio"/> 5
Provision of wildlife habitat via urban forestry management	<input type="radio"/> 1	<input type="radio"/> 2	<input type="radio"/> 3	<input type="radio"/> 4	<input type="radio"/> 5
Loss of significant numbers of trees due to age and/or disease	<input type="radio"/> 1	<input type="radio"/> 2	<input type="radio"/> 3	<input type="radio"/> 4	<input type="radio"/> 5
Loss of significant numbers of trees due to vandalism, illegal pruning, and/or illegal removal	<input type="radio"/> 1	<input type="radio"/> 2	<input type="radio"/> 3	<input type="radio"/> 4	<input type="radio"/> 5
Loss of significant numbers of trees due to development	<input type="radio"/> 1	<input type="radio"/> 2	<input type="radio"/> 3	<input type="radio"/> 4	<input type="radio"/> 5

b. Limitations:

	not at all a limitation	minor limitation	medium limitation	moderate limitation	serious limitation
Funding constraints	<input type="radio"/> 1	<input type="radio"/> 2	<input type="radio"/> 3	<input type="radio"/> 4	<input type="radio"/> 5
Staffing constraints	<input type="radio"/> 1	<input type="radio"/> 2	<input type="radio"/> 3	<input type="radio"/> 4	<input type="radio"/> 5
Prioritization of urban forestry programs within your agency/the city at large	<input type="radio"/> 1	<input type="radio"/> 2	<input type="radio"/> 3	<input type="radio"/> 4	<input type="radio"/> 5
Coordination of efforts to protect and manage the overall urban forest	<input type="radio"/> 1	<input type="radio"/> 2	<input type="radio"/> 3	<input type="radio"/> 4	<input type="radio"/> 5
Tree inventory specific to your agency (if applicable)*	<input type="radio"/> 1	<input type="radio"/> 2	<input type="radio"/> 3	<input type="radio"/> 4	<input type="radio"/> 5
Management plan specific to your agency (if applicable)*	<input type="radio"/> 1	<input type="radio"/> 2	<input type="radio"/> 3	<input type="radio"/> 4	<input type="radio"/> 5

VIII. COVID-19

Has the COVID-19 global pandemic affected your urban forestry program in any way, whether funding, staffing, programs or operations? Have you adjusted any procedures or processes?

IX. Significant Changes

What, if any, significant changes or accomplishments have taken place within your organization's urban forestry programs in the last fiscal year?

X. Topics of Concern

What topics are of greatest concern in your organization this year?

XI. Optional

Do you have any recommendations, comments, or suggestions for us to improve the method of data collection, the annual report, or other processes related to the Annual Urban Forest Report?

Attachment 2: 2021 Alternative Annual Survey Questions

Sent to the San Francisco Planning Department

Annual Urban Forest Report Alternative Survey

Fiscal Year 2020-2021

Pursuant to [Chapter 12, Section 1209 of the Environment Code](#), SF Environment is surveying your organization's forestry program work during the last fiscal year. Thank you for your participation.

Part I

1. Agency Information:

Name of Agency/Department/Organization:	
Your Name:	
Email:	

2. Work Force & Budget:

A. How many urban forestry related staff positions does your organization have?	
B. What is the budget for your urban forestry related programming in the 2020-2021 fiscal year?	

3. Assistance to San Francisco-based Urban Forestry Programs or Organizations

A. Did you provide TECHNICAL assistance to any urban forestry programs or organizations in San Francisco? If so, please identify the programs and/or organizations and the nature of the assistance.	
B. Did you provide FINANCIAL assistance to any urban forestry programs or organizations in San Francisco? If so, please identify the programs	

and/or organizations and the nature of the assistance.	
---	--

4. Other San Francisco Projects/Programs

Did you work on any other projects not discussed in Question III that may affect San Francisco’s urban forest?	
A. If yes, what is the project/program status?	
B. How can we assist or work with you on these projects/programs?	

Part 2: Additional Questions

5. What, if any, significant changes or accomplishments have taken place within your organization’s urban forestry programs in the last fiscal year? <i>For example, staffing or budget changes, new major projects or programs, changes to forestry management programs or oversight, or any significant achievements?</i>

6. Are you working on regional, statewide, or national issues that we should know about and/or can support locally?

7. What topics are of greatest concern in your organization this year? *For example, concerns about drought conditions affecting tree health, including increased pest or disease pressure, other tree health concerns, providing wildlife habitat, jurisdictional issues, COVID-19, or public response to an agency plan.*

8. OPTIONAL: Do you have any recommendations, comments, or suggestions for us to improve the method of data collection, the annual report, or other processes related to the Annual Urban Forest Report?

Thank you for your participation. Please return this form and direct any questions to:

Peter Brastow

Senior Environmental Specialist

Nature, Ecosystems and Biodiversity

San Francisco Department of the Environment

peter.brastow@sfgov.org

P: 415-355-3733

Attachment 3: Ramaytush Ohlone Land Acknowledgement

[San Francisco Urban Forestry Council Resolution on Ramaytush Ohlone Land Acknowledgement]

WHEREAS, The San Francisco Urban Forestry Council (UFC) acknowledges that the Ramaytush Ohlone are the original peoples of the San Francisco Peninsula; and

WHEREAS, The UFC acknowledges that the area comprising the City and County of San Francisco was originally inhabited by the Yelamu, an independent tribe of the Ramaytush Ohlone peoples; and

WHEREAS, The UFC acknowledges that the Association of Ramaytush Ohlone has actively worked to research, expand public awareness of, and preserve Ohlone history and culture; and

WHEREAS, The UFC acknowledges that the Ramaytush Ohlone peoples have survived the brutalities of colonialism, enslavement, genocide, discrimination, racism, gender-based violence, theft, forced assimilation, and other atrocities driven by local, federal, and global governments; and

WHEREAS, The UFC acknowledges that environmental degradation is caused by colonization and white supremacy and the resultant forced removal of the Ramaytush Ohlone from their lands, and that, in stark contrast, Ramaytush Ohlone peoples as original caretakers of Yelamu have maintained balance with nature for millennia; and

WHEREAS, The UFC acknowledges that early environmentalists and conservationists were part of efforts to forcibly remove people and deny Indigenous wisdom, traditional ecological knowledge, Indigenous practices, and rights to the land; and

WHEREAS, The UFC acknowledges that Ramaytush Ohlone peoples are not a mythical population of the past, but an integral and active community in the present San Francisco Bay Area region, and beyond, whose ongoing exclusion and invisibility denied the greater Native American community's inclusion and respect in San Francisco; and

WHEREAS, The UFC acknowledges that the City and County of San Francisco was founded on unceded territory, and that the existence of the City and County on this land continues to contribute to the erasure and exclusion of the Ramaytush Ohlone peoples; and

WHEREAS, To acknowledge the truth of the lands and peoples' history is a human right and a demonstration of honor and respect for the contributions and sacrifices of the Ramaytush Ohlone ancestors who have been inhabiting and caring for this land; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, From this date forward, the San Francisco Urban Forestry Council will state the following land acknowledgement at the beginning of each Council meeting:

The Urban Forestry Council acknowledges that we occupy the unceded ancestral homeland of the Ramaytush Ohlone peoples, who are the original inhabitants of the San Francisco Peninsula. We wish to pay our respects to the Ancestors, Elders and Relatives of the Ramaytush Community and to affirm their sovereign rights as First Peoples. We honor the Ramaytush Ohlone for their enduring commitment to steward Mother Earth. We recognize that the Ramaytush Ohlone have lived in harmony with nature for millennia, and that to achieve a truly ecologically sustainable future for San Francisco, we must embrace Indigenous traditional ecological knowledge in how we care for the city's lands, waters, and all its people; and, be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, That an adapted version of this acknowledgement will also be read at the beginning of Planning and Funding and Landmark Tree Ad-Hoc Committee meetings of the UFC; and, be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, That the UFC's land acknowledgement is just a part of the first step needed in acknowledging and honoring the land, culture, wisdom, and contributions of the Ramaytush Ohlone peoples throughout the San Francisco Bay Area; and, be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, The UFC will establish a relationship with the Ramaytush Ohlone by engaging in a meaningful tribal consultation process to understand their unique needs, concerns, and

ecological knowledge as the original caretakers of Yelamu, especially as it relates to climate appropriate plant selection for social and ecological resilience; and, be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, The UFC will engage with San Francisco’s American Indian Cultural District and other American Indian stakeholders to elevate American Indian traditional ecological knowledge, concerns, and expertise.

I hereby certify that this Resolution was adopted at the Urban Forestry Council’s meeting on August 24, 2021.



Peter Brastow, Urban Forestry Coordinator

Andrew Sullivan, Chair

Vote: Approved

Ayes: M. Sullivan, Crawford, Keller, Hernandez-Gomez, Spigelman, Trang, Troxel, Vaisset-Fauvel, Xochitl

Noes:

Absent: Lacan, Nagle, Polony, Stevens, A. Sullivan



Coast live oak
(*Quercus agrifolia*)
in a very tight spot
in Noe Valley.