

Indian Laurel Fig Tree Removal Program FAQs

Why are these trees being removed?

The Indian Laurel fig tree (*Ficus microcarpa*) have been identified and slowly removed for decades due to the numerous problems that they create in our urban environment. These problems range from nuisance debris, sidewalk and curb damage, and property damage caused from tree or branch failures.

All urban trees have a much narrower life span than a tree in an open grown environment like a park or natural area. As Urban Forest managers it our task to continually monitor and evaluate public street trees in the City's Urban Forest. There unfortunately exists a time when trees cross a threshold where their maintenance demands and associated problems far out weigh their retention. It is at this point that management decisions have to be made regarding what makes the most sustainable sense in the long term for a healthy community and urban forest.

Funds have been identified to help supplement this program so that Indian Laurel fig trees can slowly begin to be removed from our public streets. This program will eventually result in their being no Indian Laurel fig trees in the public right of way in the City of Ventura.

How long will this program be in effect?

At this time it is unknown how long this program will be in effect. The initial goal is to focus on an identified portion of the City's Indian laurel fig tree population, which has been identified for removal. The program will most likely take place over the next decade to phase out this particular species of tree. This program as with all City programs is heavily dictated by available funding, which will play a significant role in the overall timing of this removal strategy.

How were decisions made in regards to which trees will be removed?

City staff conducted an evaluation of all remaining Indian Laurel fig trees in the City of Ventura. The trees were evaluated based upon criteria such as health, structural stability, and probability of failure. Using this data staff was better able to prioritize which trees will be removed first.

What will happen to the remaining Indian Laurel fig trees on a street not removed?

All remaining Indian Laurel fig trees on a street will be pruned after the removals are conducted. These remaining trees will at some point in the future be identified for removal as part of the overall removal program.

Will new trees be planted?

New street trees will be planted as part of this removal program. Existing vacant sites (sites where trees currently do not exist) will be the focus of our replanting efforts initially. Sites where trees are removed make difficult sites for young tree establishment. We will be waiting a full work year before replacing tree sites where an Indian Laurel fig tree was removed. At this time residents who do not desire a replacement tree do not have to have one.

How will I know when this work is going to take place?

There will be a combination of advanced notification prior to any work taking place. Door hangers and no-parking signs will be used to notify all residences at or near an Indian Laurel fig tree scheduled for removal.