



Mountain View Coalition for Sustainable Planning
c/o Aaron Grossman
817 Montgomery Street
Mountain View, CA 94041

February 10, 2021

City of Mountain View Parks and Recreation Commission
City Hall, 500 Castro Street
PO Box 7540
Mountain View, CA 94039-7540

Re: 5.2 Update to Community Tree Master Plan

Dear PRC Commissioners:

The Mountain View Coalition for Sustainable Planning (MVCSP), in collaboration with GreenSpacesMV, appreciates the opportunity to respond to the Update to Community Tree Master Plan agenda item for your meeting on the 10th. We have reviewed the Staff memorandum, and we have the following comments we would like to share with you.

We are very interested in seeing the following addressed during the update process:

- **Increased tree canopy:** Such increases would provide both a carbon and heat sink, and increased shade, which contributes to energy efficiency for our homes and other structures. There can also be traffic calming benefits as well; applying Complete Streets and Green Streets concepts can be useful on this front.
- **Tree choices, including best types by location:** The updated plan should help ensure that native, drought-tolerant, and pollinator-friendly landscaping is emphasized, that migration paths are protected, and that cone-dropping or low-hanging trees adjacent to sidewalks and bikeways are not allowed (if applicable). Likewise, please ensure no trees attractive to aphids, such as tulip trees, which can result in sticky droppings on sidewalks, are included in the plans. For information on pollinator-friendly landscaping, see https://www.pollinator.org/pollinator.org/assets/generalFiles/CalifCoastalStepperx4FINAL_171017_083943.pdf.
- **Tree placement considerations:** Some areas of the city are better populated with trees than others. Placement in unusual, unused, or underused areas generally should be promoted as well.

- **Support Community/City collaboration opportunities:** Groups such as ours can provide the community end of potential program design; also GreenSpacesMV, Mountain View Trees, Soil&Water, Friends of the Stevens Creek Trail, Canopy, and neighbor groups through the City Cool Block program.
- **Integrated approaches consideration:** Any work that disrupts a part of our city should be leveraged if possible for additional work at the same time where increases in tree canopy might be achieved. One detail in this area is that any canopy plan should look at the impact of above-ground power lines and how their location and maintenance can impact health of trees and limit the planting of trees. Guidelines for city plans for undergrounding utility lines should be presented as a way to promote a diverse and healthy canopy.

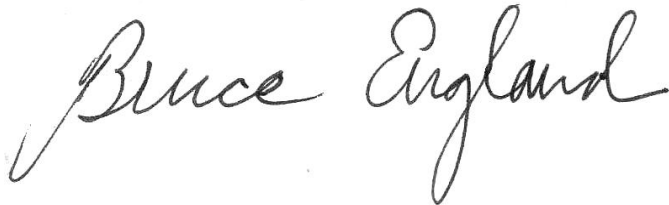
One question: Is it possible to overlay upcoming projects on an interactive map where there are impacts on public streets, bikeways, or sidewalks?

- **Regarding tree removal:** The update should include coverage on tree removal policy, whether for heritage or non-heritage trees, such as why any must be removed and what the replacement strategy will look like. We would like to point out that any new trees take a number of years to reach maturity and fully contribute to the overall city canopy. Also, please consider requiring developers to include in the arborist reports the dollar amount of assessed value of all trees that are proposed to be removed, including heritage trees, so the community has a better sense of the impact of tree removals in proposed development projects.
- **Stormwater management:** This can have an impact on nearby trees. Unless the details are covered elsewhere, it would be good to include in this update.

Process of updating the Plan: We would like to see robust community outreach and input gathering, as well as inter-department collaborations with Community Development, Public Works, the Sustainability team and others, including community stakeholders.

Thank you again for the opportunity to comment.

Sincerely,



Bruce England
for the Mountain View Coalition for Sustainable Planning

cc:

Jakob Trconic, Forestry and Roadway Manager
John R. Marchant, Community Services Director
Aarti Shrivastava, Community Development Director / Assistant City Manager
Kimbra McCarthy, City Manager
City Clerk

About Mountain View Coalition for Sustainable Planning

The Mountain View Coalition for Sustainable Planning is a local volunteer-based organization dedicated to making Mountain View as beautiful, economically healthy, transit, bicycle, and pedestrian accessible, and affordable as

possible. MVCSP member interest and expertise covers areas such as housing, transportation, the environment, the economy, and beyond!

For more information, see <http://www.mvcsp.org>.

To contact us, send email to mvcsp.info@gmail.com.