



# City Manager's Office

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## MEMORANDUM

**DATE:** 9/19/2022

**TO:** Mayor and City Council

**THROUGH:** Doug Thornley, City Manager Approved Electronically

**FROM:** Calli Wilsey, Policy and Strategy Director  
Matt Basile, Urban Forester  
Jaime Schroeder, Parks and Recreation Director  
Angela Fuss, Development Services Assistant Director

**SUBJECT:** Update on Tree Preservation Efforts

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This memo is intended to provide an update on various tree preservation efforts that are currently underway as future steps are considered to ensure a comprehensive strategy to address the community impacts of the urban heat island.

### **Improved Building Permit Review Process for Public Trees**

Staff implemented changes to improve the permit review process for trees in the public right-of-way to ensure consistent review under existing Reno Municipal Code (RMC) requirements. In addition to planning division staff review of landscape and irrigation plans for conformance with RMC Title 18, permits that involve trees in the public right-of-way are now routed electronically to the City's urban forester for review as well. The urban forester reviews the landscape and irrigation plans to ensure compliance with requirements for public trees. The cross-departmental review allows for issues related to trees in the public right-of-way to be addressed through the standard permitting process.

Planning staff continues to review all landscape and irrigation plans located on private property and checks for conformance with zoning code requirements. This includes minimum landscape requirements, tree/shrub requirements, and parkway strip requirements.

### **Title 8 Parks and Recreation Internal Policy**

Parks and Recreation staff are drafting an internal policy to ensure consistent application of requirements in RMC Title 8 that apply to trees in the public right-of-way. The policy and procedure will be discussed with the Urban Forestry Commission in an upcoming meeting. In

addition to providing consistency for staff procedures, the policy will help provide clarity for external stakeholders on how existing requirements are applied.

### **Tree Canopy Update**

During previous community engagement efforts on tree preservation, staff heard numerous requests from the community to provide updated data on the tree canopy. Staff is in the process of discussing funding solutions, including grant opportunities with the Nevada Division of Forestry, and working to solicit proposals for a firm to provide an updated analysis. While the analysis will be done to ensure accurate comparisons can be made to previous studies, a more detailed and advanced analysis also will be needed in the long term.