

1 **UFC Street Tree Policies**

2 ***THE URBAN FOREST COUNCIL RECOMMENDS THAT THE PLANNING***  
3 ***COMMISSION ELEVATE THE VISIBILITY AND IMPORTANCE OF STREET TREES***  
4 ***IN THE GENERAL PLAN; URGES CITY DEPARTMENTS TO ESTABLISH STREET***  
5 ***TREE POLICIES AND INTEGRATE *STREET TREES* INTO PLANNING, OPERATIONS***  
6 ***AND PERMITTING DECISIONS; AND URGES THE MAYOR AND BOARD OF***  
7 ***SUPERVISORS TO WORK WITH CITY DEPARTMENTS AND OTHER GOVERNMENT***  
8 ***AGENCIES OPERATING IN SAN FRANCISCO TO IMPLEMENT THESE***  
9 ***RECOMMENDATIONS.***

10 WHEREAS, Trees in the public right-of-way provide environmental and socio-economic  
11 benefits to the community; and

12 WHEREAS, Trees in the public right-of-way increase property values, and enhance  
13 neighborhood character, livability and sense of place; and

14 WHEREAS, Trees in the public right-of-way calm vehicular traffic, reduce traffic noise, and  
15 encourage pedestrian activity; and

16 WHEREAS, Trees in the public right-of-way reduce levels of atmospheric carbon that lead to  
17 climate change; and

18 WHEREAS, Trees in the public right-of-way improve air quality, *and public health* by  
19 absorbing gaseous pollutants, intercepting dust, ash, and smoke, and releasing oxygen through  
20 photosynthesis; and

21 WHEREAS, Trees in the public right-of-way reduce storm water runoff through the  
22 interception and storage of rainfall on leaf and branch surfaces, thereby reducing runoff volumes,  
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1 delaying the onset of peak flows, limiting the need to expand storm drainage systems; and reducing  
2 soil erosion; and

3 WHEREAS, Urban forest benefits increase with tree number and size, and therefore mature  
4 trees have a high value and should be conserved; and

5  
6 WHEREAS, Appropriate planning, planting and maintenance of street trees provides City  
7 residents and visitors with economic, social, ecological and aesthetic benefits, as well as contributing  
8 to public health, welfare and safety; and

9 WHEREAS, The full benefits of the City's urban forest are not being realized because:

- 10 a. Trees are not valued sufficiently as the City grows and develops.  
11  
12 b. Projects such as utility undergrounding, curb cuts for new driveways and large  
13 transportation projects are limiting the opportunity for new trees by eliminating planting  
14 sites.  
15  
16 c. Plans and designs for projects are not maximizing new installations of trees.  
17  
18 d. Trees do not always receive adequate maintenance that will ensure their health and  
19 longevity; and,  
20  
21 e. Trees are not always selected, planted and established *properly*.

22 WHEREAS, The General Plan currently encourages the City to maintain and expand the urban  
23 forest; and

24 WHEREAS, Each City department charged with the care of street trees needs to develop  
25 policies and procedures that address the importance of trees and conform to the City's vision for  
street trees;

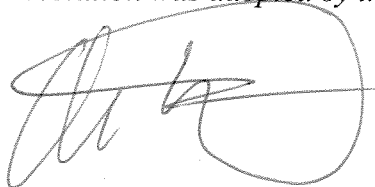
1 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that *the Urban Forest Council* urges City agencies  
2 to recognize that street trees are a significant and highly visual portion of the urban forest, and a  
3 vital infrastructure element essential to the quality of life in the urban environment; and

4 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that in order to maximize the environmental and socio-economic  
5 benefits that trees provide, the Urban Forest Council recommends that the Planning Commission  
6 elevate the visibility and importance of street trees in the General Plan, and that City Departments  
7 and other government agencies operating in San Francisco establish street tree policies and integrate  
8 them into planning, operations and permitting decisions; and that *the Mayor and Board of*  
9 *Supervisors work with City departments and other government agencies operating in San Francisco*  
10 *to implement these recommendations* so that:

- 11 a. Street trees are recognized as living infrastructure elements that appreciate in value and  
12 should be integrated in the planning and development of projects affecting the public  
13 right-of-way.
- 14 b. Existing trees should be valued as an asset in new development, and their protection  
15 and conservation must be a priority.
- 16 c. Projects should be planned so that planting sites are conserved, and new projects should  
17 maximize *the opportunity to* plant trees.
- 18 d. Trees should be adequately maintained to ensure their health and longevity in order to  
19 maximize the environmental and socio-economic benefits they provide.

20 I hereby certify that this resolution was adopted by the Urban Forest Council at its regular meeting  
21 on November 14, 2003.

22 //Emily Rogers//  
23 Council Secretary



Att for Emily Rogers

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**VOTE:**

**Ayes: Carolyn Blair, Jose Campos, Jane Herman, AnMarie Rodgers, Francesca Vietor, Michael Sullivan, Larry Costello, Paul Sacamono, and Terry Milne.**

**Noes: None**

**Absent: Kelly Cornell and Milton Marks, III**