

City of Fresno, “City of Fresno Management Plan”

Grant Period: 8/4/2020-3/30/24

Date: April 29, 2024

Grant Award: \$307,289.00 Match: \$34,240.00

Grant Type: Urban Forest Management Activities

INTRODUCTION:

The City of Fresno was awarded the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE) grant number 8GG19404 on June 25, 2020. From that time the City has successfully completed the deliverables as agreed in a timely and efficient manner. The City is currently working on the application for the new California Urban and Community Forestry Inflation Reduction Act – CalFire Grant opportunity. If awarded the City sees great opportunity to take tangible steps to plant a significant number of trees, greatly reducing the current number of vacant sites as identified in the Urban Forest Management Plan.

PROJECT OBJECTIVES AND DELIVERABLES:

OBJECTIVES:

1. The project objective for grant #8GG19404 is that the City was to establish an Urban Forest Management Plan that will utilize citywide tree inventory data to establish a 40-year plan. Community meetings and a survey will be used to capture the perspective of residents. Provide tree care education with a focus on workforce development and increase the urban canopy by planting 68 trees.

DELIVERABLES:

1. Producing the City of Fresno’s UFMP with robust community engagement.
 - a. On July 21, 2022, the City approved and awarded the Consultant Services Agreement with Dudek to create a forty-year Urban Forest Management Plan to provide guidance, direction, and recommendation improvements to the City’s current processes and policies.
 - b. Since July 21, 2022, City staff in collaboration with the professional arborists at Dudek, have diligently worked to develop an extensive UFMP. This comprehensive plan encompasses many crucial elements to effectively manage and preserve the City’s urban forest.

- c. City staff attended approximately 30 community meetings to explain the project and encourage community feedback. All community meetings had translation services available in Spanish, Hmong, and Punjabi.
 - d. Two larger Urban Forest Summits attended by more than 1,000 community members were held with a large booth encouraging opportunity for discussions and feedback encouraging community engagement. Education materials and resources about the City's tree inventory were distributed.
 - e. A Public tree survey was circulated via social media and community meetings for 16 weeks in English, Spanish, Hmong, and Punjabi encouraging community feedback. 1,352 responses were received.
 - f. Four virtual public meetings were held to present the findings of the survey and to obtain community feedback.
 - g. The Urban Forest Management Plan is complete and scheduled to be presented to the City Council on May 23, 2024, for adoption.
2. Planting and maintaining 68 trees.
 - a. Upon assessing and marking the 68 locations staff identified that the neighborhood surrounding the McKenzie sites utilized the green space for soccer games. For that reason, on December 14, 2022, the City submitted a modification request changing the tree species from Deodar Cedars to Maples in the various species of Acer Rubrum. This allows for the green space to continue being utilized with trees that have a higher tree canopy allowing for both additional trees and green space for play. This was approved on December 14, 2022.
 - b. Upon assessing and marking the 68 locations, staff identified that additional trees could be accepted, and we would remain within the project budget. A total of 83 trees were successfully planted.
 - i. Huntington between SR-41 and First was approved for 10 Deodar Cedars, a total of 18 were planted.
 - ii. Huntington between Cedar and Barton was approved for seven Deodar Cedars, a total of 13 were planted.
 - iii. McKenzie between Barton and Jackson was approved for 27 Deodar Cedars, a total of 38 Maples were planted.
 - iv. McKenzie between Maple and Sierra Vista was approved for 24 Deodar Cedars, a total of 14 Maples were planted.
 - c. One challenge that the City does continuously face is vandalism of trees. These trees are on a regular maintenance cycle and staff inspects the sites weekly and can address vandalism as needed. Vandalism has been anything from tree stakes being stolen to the tree itself being broken into pieces. Crews have replaced tree stakes and trees, but the cost has not been charged to this grant.
 3. Providing Tree Education
 - a. Two large Urban Forest Summits attended by more than 1,000 community members were held with a large booth encouraging opportunity for discussions and feedback encouraging community engagement. Education materials and

resources were distributed about the City's tree inventory, adequate tree watering and planting questions.

- b. These events also allowed residents to request trees be planted on their park strips. These were able to be scheduled and trees planted, adding to the City inventory. Trees on park strips do not have City irrigation and are therefore the responsibility of the property owner to water. These tree plantings were not charged to the CalFire Grant.
4. Providing hands-on job training opportunities.
 - a. The City hired an intern who was in the Tree Fresno Green Team Program/ Partnership. This intern worked on the irrigation team and under general supervision was taught how to install, repair, and maintain municipal landscape irrigation systems. This time was not charged to the CalFire Grant.
 - b. A City Supervisor II from the Landscape Irrigation team attended a Tree Fresno / Green Team Program on February 23, 2024, to provide information regarding opportunities within the Irrigation field. Information was provided regarding the City of Fresno's Youth Job Corps Program. This program offers training and job experience teaching irrigation as a vocational tool working with City crews. This time was not charged to the CalFire Grant.

CHALLENGES AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS:

CHALLENGES:

1. Vandalism of trees.
 - a. Tree stakes were stolen and had to be replaced.
 - b. Five trees were chopped up and destroyed and had to be replaced.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS:

1. Community events provided an opportunity to hear from the community regarding where they would like to see future trees planted. This list is now a future project consideration list as funding becomes available.
2. The Urban Forest Management Plan is going to be a very useful tool establishing the plan as a comprehensive guide for managing and maintaining City Trees (urban forest), ensuring their preservation and sustainable growth.


TREES:

The 83 trees that were planted are healthy and thriving. Five trees were vandalized and had to be replaced. These will continue to be monitored and replaced if necessary.

METRIC REPORTING ON DELIVERABLES

	DELIVERABLES	Proposed Goal	Completed	Goal Met? (Y/N)	NOTES:
1.	Producing the City of Fresno's UFMP with robust community engagement.		Completed	Yes	Scheduled to be presented to Council for Adoption on May 23, 2024.
2.	Planting and maintaining 68 trees.		Completed	Yes	This goal was exceeded, and 86 trees were planted in total.
3.	Providing Tree Education		Completed	Yes	This was incorporated into multiple Community Outreach events.
4.	Providing hands-on job training opportunities.		Completed	Yes	An intern was hired from the Tree Fresno Green Team Partnership and worked on the Irrigation team.

DocuSigned by:



4/30/2024

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Public Works Director

