

PROJECT TALKING POINTS FOR BLOCK WALKERS (SUMMARY)

- ☞ Trees have positive effects on consumer behavior: shade, inviting, safe
- ☞ Trees reduce air temperature and improve air quality
- ☞ Trees save \$\$ because they help save energy
- ☞ Trees add value to real estate
- ☞ Trees boost workers attitudes
- ☞ Trees reduce violence
- ☞ Where trees are planted communities grow

Q and A

1. Is it really FREE?

Yes. Between TreePeople, the AQMD and other public grant funding agencies, all of the costs of planting our trees is covered. We may be seeking donations of community volunteers time and food for the day of the event, but this will not affect you (unless you choose to become involved in tree planting event). There is no out of pocket expense for you.

2. Who's going to water it?

This is going to be a group effort. Because this is a business district that the community cares about, it may not be practical or feasible for individuals to water their own trees. The Neighborhood Councils, using the Green Team who is carrying out this project, are organizing a long-term water and tree care committee. TreePeople has promised us the use of their watering truck for an extended period of time, until the trees are well established.

The trees will be as drought resistant as possible, so to minimize watering. On average, trees need about 15 gallons of water every week for the first few years. After that, they don't really require any additional watering. 15 gallons may sound like a lot, but it is about 20 minutes of a watering hose running at a trickle. The cost of the water is about two toilet flushes per week. In short, the watering costs are negligible compared to the benefits the tree will provide.

3. Don't trees tear up the sidewalk/gas line/etc...?

The city's street tree inspectors are very dedicated and knowledgeable about which trees to plant where. There is a list of over 100 trees from the Bureau of Street Services that details which species can be planted in what size tree wells.

Additionally, there is a list of guidelines on how far away trees must be planted from streetlights, underground utilities and intersections. In short, the city is very dedicated to ensuring that the trees planted will last for many decades. And, TreePeople has over 30 years of experience helping Citizen Foresters and communities make wise choices.

4. What kind of tree will be planted?

This is still to be determined, but **the characteristics we are looking for are firm: drought tolerant, low leaf and fruit litter, with non-aggressive root systems** (to protect the sidewalk). If there are no utility lines overhead, we are looking closely at Brisbane Box, *Tristania confertais*; Sweet Bay, *Laurus nobilus*; and/or Sweetshade, *Hymenosporum flavum*. Under utility lines shorter trees are needed - our short list is Sweet Olive, *Osmanthus fragrans*; Chinese Fringe Tree, *Chionanthus retusus*; and/or the Pink Trumpet Tree, *Tabebuia ipe*. Other criteria must be considered also, and if you are interested in being a part of the committee that determines the list of tree options or just discuss your particular likes or dislikes, please contact your Citizen Forester, Sue Castillo. **We hope to create a tree palette with an attractive consistency while allowing for some variety.**

It is important at this stage to be open to property owner's participation in the decision-making process. If the person you are talking to is very interested in this question, use that energy to get him excited about the project, and perhaps volunteer to assist. This is a community project and everyone's opinions matter!

Remember that Sue Castillo will keep records of permissions granted, visits that need follow up, and property owners who seem opposed to project participation. We may have contacts who personally know the property owner that may assist us in our communications. If you can, take down a name and phone number to help with additional efforts. Contact her at 310-489-3026, or CitizenForesterSanPedro@gmail.com.