South Palo Alto Tree Canopy Community Survey Results

The South Palo Alto Tree Canopy Community Survey was available online from November 20, 2015 to December 21, 2015. The purpose of the survey was to collect south Palo Alto individual residents’ opinions about street and yard trees. The quantity (500) and quality of responses surpassed expectations and informed our recommendations to the City of Palo Alto.

Do you live or own property in South Palo Alto?

- Yes 431 (91.7%)
- No 39 (8.3%)

In which neighborhood do you live or own property?

- Ventura 11 (2.3%)
- Midtown 102 (21.7%)
- Palo Verde 53 (11.3%)
- St. Claire Gardens 4 (0.9%)
- South of Midtown 22 (4.7%)
- Adobe Meadow 21 (4.5%)
- Charleston Gardens 1 (0.2%)
- The Greenhouse 0 (0%)
- Greendell 3 (0.6%)
- Greenmeadow 47 (10%)
- Walnut Grove 3 (0.6%)
- Fairmeadow 8 (1.7%)
- Charleston Meadows 14 (3%)
- Monroe Park 4 (0.9%)
- Palo Alto Orchards 0 (0%)
- Barron Park 120 (26.5%)
- Green Acres 27 (5.7%)
- Greater Miranda 2 (0.4%)
- Esther Clark Park 0 (0%)
- Palo Alto Hills 0 (0%)
- Not sure 2 (0.4%)
- North Palo Alto neighborhood 17 (3.6%)
- Other 22 (4.7%)
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More than 95% of respondents strongly agree or agree that there should be more trees in South Palo Alto.

There should be more trees in South Palo Alto. [What is your opinion of the trees in South Palo Alto?]

- Strongly agree: 354, 75.3%
- Agree: 95, 20.2%
- Disagree: 18, 3.8%
- Strongly disagree: 3, 0.6%

I prefer street trees located in a planter strip. [What is your opinion of the trees in South Palo Alto?]

- Strongly agree: 195, 41.5%
- Agree: 195, 41.5%
- Disagree: 69, 14.7%
- Strongly disagree: 11, 2.3%

I prefer street trees located behind the sidewalk in the front yard (rolled curb). [What is your opinion of the trees in South Palo Alto?]

- Strongly agree: 119, 25.3%
- Agree: 189, 40.2%
- Disagree: 120, 27.2%
- Strongly disagree: 34, 7.2%
When asked to identify issues that could prevent tree planting on their property, almost 50% of respondents indicated that they have no objections to planting more trees.
Almost 70% of respondents indicated that they would “very likely” water and take care of a new street or yard tree if one was provided.

93% of respondents strongly agree or agree that the City/Canopy should launch a campaign to plant more trees and engage the community.
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The City should provide incentives such as utility rebates for new private tree planting. [Make a choice for each statement:]

- Strongly agree: 230 (48.9%)
- Agree: 148 (31.5%)
- Disagree: 71 (15.1%)
- Strongly disagree: 21 (4.5%)

The City Urban Forestry tree planting requirements should be more accessible and understandable. [Make a choice for each statement:]

- Strongly agree: 236 (50.2%)
- Agree: 199 (42.3%)
- Disagree: 27 (5.7%)
- Strongly disagree: 8 (1.7%)

Private development projects should be required to plant more trees. [Make a choice for each statement:]

- Strongly agree: 304 (64.7%)
- Agree: 113 (24%)
- Disagree: 37 (7.9%)
- Strongly disagree: 16 (3.4%)

South Palo Alto needs neighborhood-specific tree planting plans. [Make a choice for each statement:]

- Strongly agree: 244 (51.9%)
- Agree: 165 (35.1%)
- Disagree: 51 (10.9%)
- Strongly disagree: 10 (2.1%)

Palo Alto residents need tree care information and resources. [Make a choice for each statement:]

- Strongly agree: 212 (45.1%)
- Agree: 206 (43.6%)
- Disagree: 42 (8.9%)
- Strongly disagree: 10 (2.1%)
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Residents should be allowed to help care for street trees. [Make a choice for each statement:]
- Strongly agree: 165 (35.1%)
- Agree: 243 (51.7%)
- Disagree: 43 (9.1%)
- Strongly disagree: 19 (4%)

Residents and businesses should be able to opt in for free private and street trees. [Make a choice for each statement:]
- Strongly agree: 263 (56%)
- Agree: 179 (38.1%)
- Disagree: 18 (3.8%)
- Strongly disagree: 10 (2.1%)

The City should have stronger street tree planting requirements. [Make a choice for each statement:]
- Strongly agree: 170 (36.2%)
- Agree: 136 (28.9%)
- Disagree: 69 (14.7%)
- Strongly disagree: 18 (3.6%)
- Not sure: 77 (16.4%)

Existing regulations that prevent street tree removal should be enforced more strictly. [Make a choice for each statement:]
- Strongly agree: 162 (34.5%)
- Agree: 120 (25.5%)
- Disagree: 83 (17.7%)
- Strongly disagree: 30 (6.4%)
- Not sure: 75 (16%)