

# RPD - SF Urban Canopy Presentation

Board of Supervisors  
Public Safety and Neighborhood Services Committee

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# Urban Forest Management at RPD

## Urban Forestry Overview on RPD Parkland

- Estimated Number of Trees on RPD Parkland – 131,000
- 20% of City's urban forest is on parkland
- 3500 acres of total parkland in SF

# Urban Forest Management at RPD

## RPD Urban Forestry Resources

FTE:	1	Chief Urban Forester
	4	Arborist Supervisors
	11	Arborist Technicians
	4	Laborers
	1	Reforestation Supervisor
	12	Reforestation Gardeners

# RPD Urban Forestry Resources

In General Fund Capital Budget:

\$1,000,000 annually

In G.O. Bond Funding:

\$2.2M in fund balance from 2012 bond program

# Urban Forest Management at RPD

## Urban Forestry Challenges

- Aging Canopy -- Majority of our large species planted > 100 years ago
- Even-aged monocultures in our unmaintained open space
- Disease and pathogens
- Ongoing Hazard Assessment and Mitigation.

# RPD Urban Forestry Strategies

## Goal: 15-year Tree Management Cycle

*Programmed tree maintenance on each park tree in maintained open space on a 15-year schedule*

- Day-to-day tree maintenance and reactive tree care by RPD Tree Crews
- Tree assessments for annual work plans
- Tree contracts for park-wide tree work
- Joint RFP with DPW BUF to acquire an Urban Forestry management database system to track and plan tree management cycle, reforestation, etc.

## Resource Prioritization and Assessments

- RPD prioritizes tree work by hazard target value – high public use areas and adjacency to paths of travel
- FY19-20 tree assessments being conducted by *HortScience* at Glen Park and Stern Grove
- Findings and recommendations will inform tree work to be accomplished at these two large park properties in FY20-21

# RPD – Reforestation Strategies

## Reforestation Overview

### Reforestation Guidelines for Maintained Parkland in development

- Goal: Plant 2 trees for every 1 tree removed
- Tree planting locations determined park-wide
- Schedule based on staff sustaining the 4-year root establishment requirement for new trees
- Constraints on canopy expansion – preservation of native SF plant communities, accommodating active park uses on parkland, and tree planting consistent with overall park design and use



# RPD - FY 19 Reforestation

## Reforestation Numbers FY 18-19

- Total Trees Planted: 415
- Trees Removed: 252
- Replacement Ratio: 1.7

# RPD Urban Tree Canopy – Climate Resilience and Biodiversity

- Climate change impacts and vegetation adaptation strategies – evolving science
- RPD strategies Include:
  - Drought tolerant Mediterranean climate planting palette
  - Native species -- SF Bay Area and CA natives
  - Overall diversity of plantings
  - Avoidance of mono-cultures

## Questions