RPD - SF Urban Canopy Presentation

Board of Supervisors
Public Safety and Neighborhood Services Committee

November 14, 2019

Director of Operations

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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



FTE: 1 Chief Urban Forester

4 Arborist Supervisors

11 Arborist Technicians

4 Laborers

1 Reforestation Supervisor

12 Reforestation Gardeners



RPD Urban Forestry Resources



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

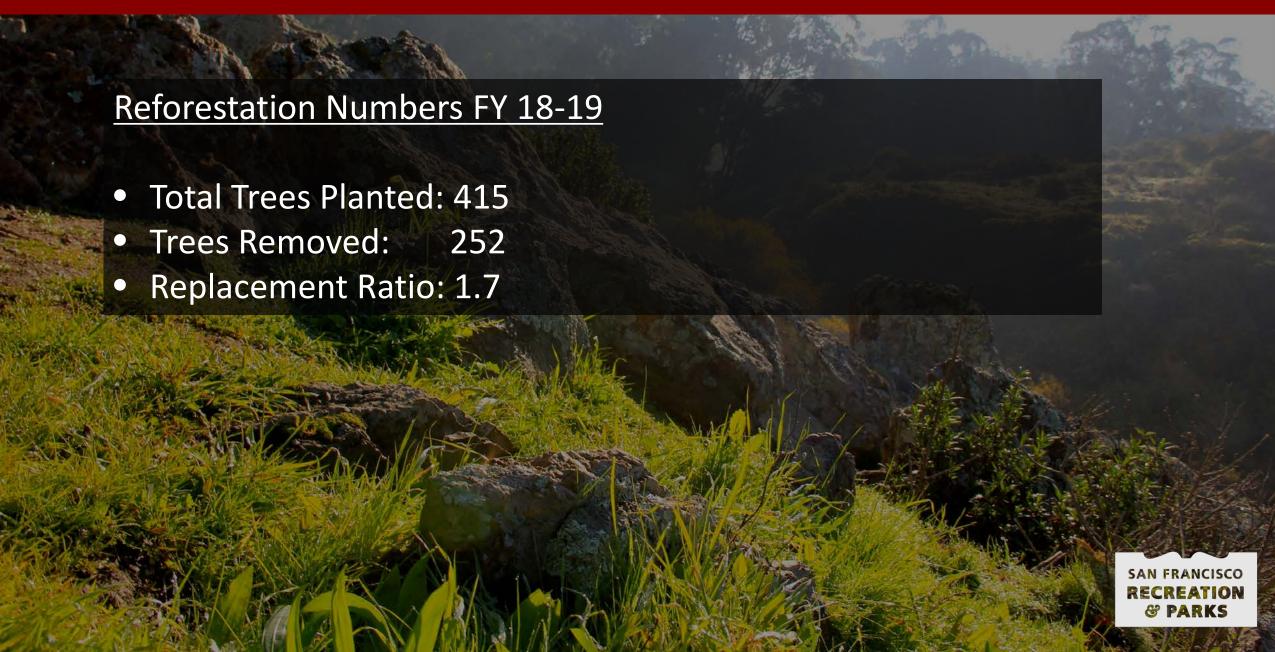
Reforestation Overview

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



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



RPD Urban Canopy Management

Questions

