Downtown Ficus Tree Expanded Pruning Program

Pruning Overview and Examples

CITY OF Encinitas

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Topics

1. **Background**
2. **Overview of the Recommend Program and Discussion**
3. **UFAC Reccomendations**

Ficus Tree Program Overview

Overview – Ficus Tree History Re-cap

1. November 13, 2017 UFAC received a report from John Ugrob

2. UFAC Reviewed and discussed the course of the program

3. UFAC passed a motion to continue the Demonstration Project on 4 trees

4. At the end of the fifth dose of treatment, the UFAC would like to see the results and re-evaluate the effectiveness of the program.

5. Present the findings to the UFAC for further consideration in 2021.

6. City staff supported the recommended continuation of the crown reductions to the 4 trees

7. UFAC recommended to Re-evaluate the remaining ficus trees in downtown Encinitas for alternatives to the pilot program

8. Fall of 2022 Dudek Evaluated 50 ficus trees for alternative pruning reccomendations
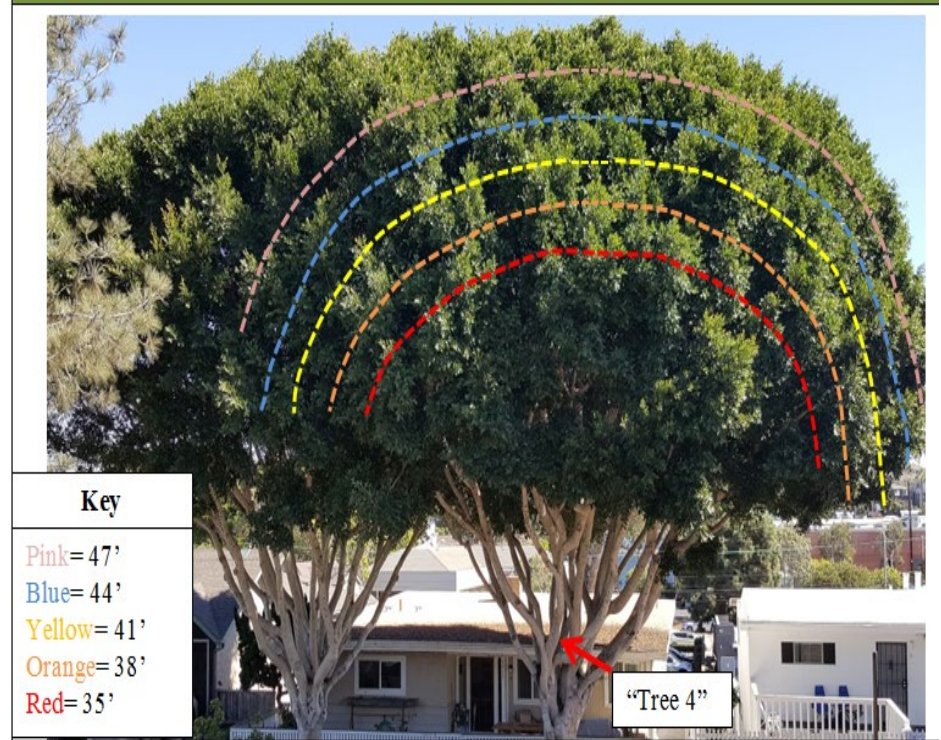
What is the Ficus Tree Program?

Mitigation program to reduce the risk associated with the trees and minimize potential damage to infrastructure.

The Program is comprised of:

1) Pruning consisting of canopy reductions and lacing.
2) Root control and the installation of root barriers to a depth of 36".
3) Related infrastructure removal and repair (i.e. Bridge-plating).

Key

Pink = 47'
Blue = 44'
Yellow = 41'
Orange = 38'
Red = 35'

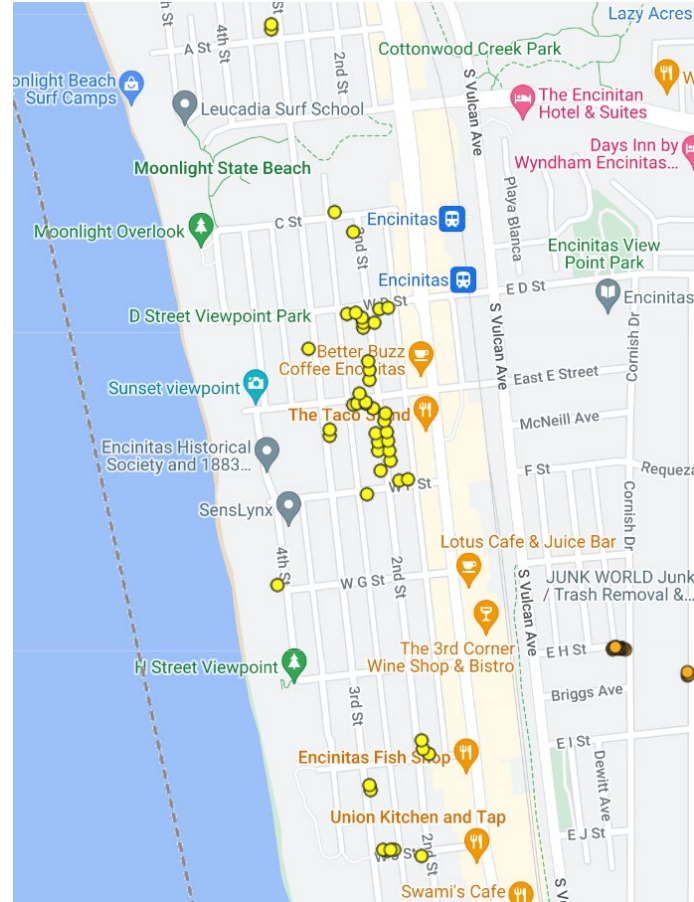"Tree 4"

Ficus Tree Pruning Evaluations

Evaluations

Date: September, October, and November 2022

Evaluator: Katrina Burritt (ISA Certified Arborist and TRAQ

Evaluated: 50 Ficus trees (only 47 remain; one removed for risk and two smaller ficus associated with site improvements)

Evaluation Type: Visual evaluation (360 degree) of each ficus tree and its surrounding landscape.

Recommended Pruning Actions

Recommended Pruning Actions Overview

1. Discontinue pilot program expansion and focus on individual tree pruning reccomendations that are best suited for each tree's unique characteristics and location in the landscape.

2. Continue to reduce branches away from the buildings and infrastructure on an as needed basis to reduce conflicts and damage to the adjacent buildings

3. Focus on structural pruning to reduce crossing or rubbing branches, reduce over extended branches, or subordinate branches with codominance.

4. Maintain current tree heights and no topping and lions tailing.

5. Expand tree wells, as possible, to maximize growing area.

6. Maintain balanced crowns.

7.   Re-evaluate each tree, annually, in the early fall for winter pruning reccomendations.

8.   Annual pruning may not be required for each tree and should focus on the following objectives.

9.   Pruning objectives should focus on reducing risk of damage to people or property, managing direction of growth (i.e towards and over buildings), providing clearance for vehicles or roadways, and improving tree structure.

10. Root prune and install bridge plates on an as-needed basis to minimize damage to adjacent buildings and preserve ficus trees

11. All pruning should be in line with ISA standards and BMPs for tree pruning.

Individual Pruning Recommendation Examples

Individual Tree Pruning Recommendation Examples

Example 1 – Tree No. 4988; 364 2nd Street

- In 2024, maintained balance crown by reducing end weight, as needed (no more than 5%) to laterals large enough to support the branch.

- Continue to reduce branches away from buildings on north side.

- Focus on structural pruning to correct crossing or rubbing branches, reduce over extended branches, or subordinate branches with codominance.

- Maintain at height of 40'.

Example 1 – Tree No. 5049; 402 2nd Street

- In 2024, maintained balance crown by reducing end weight, as needed (no more than 5%) to laterals large enough to support the branch.

- Continue to reduce branches away from buildings on north side.

- Focus on structural pruning to correct crossing or rubbing branches, reduce over extended branches, or subordinate branches with codominance.

- Maintain at height of 40'.

Example 1 – Tree No. 4851; 510 2nd Street

- In 2024, balance crown by reducing end weight off all sides, to laterals large enough to support the branch.

- Reduce height and width by no more than 5%, unless structural corrections are needed.

- Maintain branches away from buildings on south side. Maintain at a height of 35'. Remove 1.5' of concrete around the tree to create larger well.

- Example of a tree that has been heavily reduced back from buildings.

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Example 1 – Tree No. 5040; 500 2nd Street

- In 2024, maintain balanced crown by reducing end weight off all sides, to laterals large enough to support the branch.

- Reduce height and width by no more than 5%.

- Continue to reduce branches back away from building on west side.

- Prune necessary branches away from light pole on north side.

- Tree has been heavily thinned on the lower portion of the crown. No further thinning is needed in this area. Do not lion tail trees.

- Maintain height around 40 ft. Remove concrete 1.5 ft on all sides to create larger well.

Individual Tree Pruning Recommendation Examples

Example 1 – Tree No. 4774; 610 2nd Street

- Maintain height at around 40 ft.

- Allow tree to grow naturally to connect canopies of adjacent trees.

- Balance crown by making weight reduction on all sides Don't lion tail.

Example 1 – Tree No. 5112; 610 2nd Street

- LV3 – Large damage branch over roadway

- Maintain current height and width

Example 1 – Tree No. 5033; 550 2nd Street

- Allow branches to grow on west side as there is no building.

- Balance crown by doing weight reductions on all sides.

- Maintain height around 40 ft.

Questions?