



Information Item

Date: March 25, 2016

To: Mayor and City Council
From: Martin Pastucha, Director of Public Works
Subject: Recognition for Santa Monica's Urban Forestry Program

Introduction

The purpose of this info item is to notify Council of the first-time accreditation of the City's urban forestry program by the Society of Municipal Arborists (SMA).

Background

Founded in 1964, the SMA is an organization of municipal arborists and urban foresters. Its membership also includes consultants, commercial firms, nonprofits, tree boards, tree wardens, allied professionals, and citizens who actively practice or support some facet of municipal forestry. A professional affiliate of the International Society of Arboriculture, the SMA has members from across North America and beyond and rewards high-level professional standards in tree care by formally recognizing urban and community forestry programs for implementing excellent and comprehensive management practices following an application and peer-review process. To qualify for this distinction, an urban forestry program must meet the following criteria:

- An International Society of Arboriculture certified arborist on staff.
- National Arbor Day Foundation (NADF) Tree City USA status and a NADF Tree City USA growth award.
- An approved urban forest master plan.
- Preference shown for Tree Care Industry Association accredited tree care companies whenever private arborists are contracted.
- Adherence to American National Standards Institute standards for safety and performance.

- Allegiance to the SMA's Code of Ethics.

Discussion

The City of Santa Monica is the ninth urban forestry program in the United States to receive this distinction. The urban forest is overseen by the Public Works Department's Public Landscape Division.

The SMA will further recognize the City of Santa Monica by presenting a plaque at an upcoming Urban Forest Task Force meeting and publishing an article in their online magazine *City Trees*.

Prepared By: Jessica Saks, Staff Assistant III

References

Society of Municipal Arborists (<http://www.urban-forestry.com/sma-accreditation>)

Attachment A: Letter from SMA President Jeremy Barrick



February 23, 2016

Matthew Wells
Urban Forester
2600 Ocean Park Blvd.
Santa Monica, CA 90405

Dear Matthew:

I would like to express my congratulations to you and The City of Santa Monica for receiving the Municipal Forestry Department Accreditation from The Society of Municipal Arborists (SMA). On behalf of the SMA, I would like to welcome you and your city into an exclusive group of communities that have met the highest standards for municipal forestry. From routine operations to management and planning for your community forest, The City of Santa Monica is exceeding national standards and setting an example for others to follow.

This accreditation recognizes the dedication you and your forestry department staff, have given to the City of Santa Monica and the care of its urban forest. By adhering to accreditation standards and following best management practices, your urban forest will continue to grow in value and benefit the City of Santa Monica and its citizens for generations to come.

Thank you for your emphasis on urban trees and the environment, and best wishes in your continued success.

Sincerely,

Jeremy Barrick, President
Society of Municipal Arborists

Cc: Tony Vazquez – Mayor
Martin Pastuscha – Director of Public Works
Jerri LaHaie, SMA Executive Director