



DATE: July 12, 2021

AGENDA ITEM # 6

TO: Environmental Commission
FROM: Emiko Ancheta, Staff Liaison
SUBJECT: GreenTown Los Altos 500 Trees Campaign

RECOMMENDATION:

Receive presentation by Naomi Schulze (GreenTown Intern) on the 500 Trees Campaign

BACKGROUND

GreenTown Los Altos is a local non-profit organization in Los Altos that engages the community on environmental efforts throughout the City. GreenTown developed a program to enhance the tree canopy in the City and began their 500 Trees Campaign in 2019. To date they have planted 219 and plan to start their third season of plantings in November 2021.

GreenTown's summer intern program is underway and Naomi Schulze is the designated intern that will be assisting with the 500 Trees Campaign. Naomi has been working on the program and researching ways to encourage more participation.

DISCUSSION

Receive informational presentation from GreenTown Intern Naomi Schulze on the 500 Trees Campaign.

Attachment:

- A. 500 Trees Presentation

Urban Forestry in Los Altos

Presented by
GreenTown Los Altos

A stylized graphic at the bottom of the page features a teal globe on the left, partially obscured by several green leaves of varying sizes and orientations on the right. The globe shows some darker teal patterns representing continents.

Contents

A stylized teal globe is partially visible on the left side of the page. A large teal plus sign is positioned to the right of the globe. Several teal dots of varying sizes are scattered in the light teal background.

01

Value

How an urban forestry program can improve our community

02

Program

History of the Tree City USA program and its benefits

03

Standards

What's needed to establish a Tree City

Value



Value — Benefits

Trees are a component of “green infrastructure.” They provide:

- Economic benefits
 - Increased property value
 - Reduced costs
- Environmental benefits
 - Storm water mitigation
 - Greenhouse gas sequestration
 - Air pollutant removal
 - Food, shelter, and transportation for wildlife
 - Shade
- Public health benefits
- Build stronger ties to community



Value — Why

- Maintenance
- Evaluation
- Education
- Los Altos' environmental priorities



Program



Program — History

- Launched nationally in 1976
- Mountain View, Palo Alto, and Menlo Park
- Recognition program
- Provides resources and direction



Standards



Standards

1. Tree Board or Department
2. Tree Care Ordinance
3. Community Forestry Program With Annual Budget of at Least \$2 Per Capita
4. Arbor Day Observance and Proclamation





• Standards — Tree Board or Department

- Professional forester/arborist, entire forestry department, or a tree board
- Develop and administer tree management program
- Part of CAAP



Standards — Tree Care Ordinance

- Establishes board and gives responsibilities
- Guidance for planting, maintaining, and removing trees on public property



Standards — Budget

- Annual budget of at least \$2 per capita
- Tree planting, equipment rental, maintenance, etc.



Standards — Arbor Day

Opportunity to inform and engage the community through:

- Tree planting
- Education
- Community events



Conclusion

- Use Tree City USA as framework/goal
- Opportunity to showcase environmental priorities

