



CITY OF CARMEL-BY-THE-SEA FOREST AND BEACH COMMISSION AGENDA

Forest and Beach Commissioners Sarah Berling,
Kelly Brezoczky, Tamara Michie, Harry Ross, and
Neal Rutta

All meetings are held in the City Council Chambers
East Side of Monte Verde Street
Between Ocean and 7th Avenues

Regular Meeting
Thursday, January 15, 2026
2:30 PM

Meeting 2:30 PM

HYBRID MEETING ATTENDANCE OPTIONS

This meeting will be held in person and via teleconference ("hybrid"). The public is welcome to attend the meeting in person or remotely via Zoom, however, the meeting will proceed as normal even if there are technical difficulties accessing Zoom. The City will do its best to resolve any technical issues as quickly as possible. To view or listen to the meeting from home, you may also watch the live stream on the City's YouTube page at: <https://www.youtube.com/@CityofCarmelbytheSea/streams>. To participate in the meeting via Zoom, copy and paste the link below into your browser.

<https://ci-carmel-ca-us.zoom.us/j/81316875396>
Webinar ID: 813 1687 5396
Passcode: 311927
Dial in: (253) 215-8782

HOW TO OFFER PUBLIC COMMENT

The public may give public comment at this meeting in person, or use the Zoom teleconference module, provided that there is access to Zoom during the meeting. Zoom comments will be taken after the in-person comments. The public can also email comments to yculver@ci.carmel.ca.us. Comments must be received at least 2 hours before the meeting in order to be provided to the legislative body. Comments received after that time and up to the beginning of the meeting will be made part of the record.

CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL - CHAMBERS

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

ANNOUNCEMENTS

PUBLIC APPEARANCES

Members of the public are entitled to speak on matters of municipal concern not on the agenda during Public Appearances. Each person's comments shall be limited to 3 minutes, or as otherwise established by the Chair. Persons are not required to provide their names, however, it is helpful for speakers to state their names so they may be identified in the minutes of the meeting. Under the Brown Act, public comment for matters on the agenda must relate to that agenda item and public comments for matters not on the agenda must relate to the subject matter jurisdiction of this legislative body. If a member of the public attending the meeting remotely violates the Brown Act by failing to comply with these requirements of the Brown Act, then that speaker will be muted.

CONSENT AGENDA

Items on the consent agenda are routine in nature and do not require discussion or independent action. Members of the Commission or the public may ask that any items be considered individually for purposes of Board/Commission discussion and/ or for public comment. Unless that is done, one motion may be used to adopt all recommended actions.

- 1) Approval of December 11, 2025, Minutes
- 2) Directors Report

ORDERS OF BUSINESS

Orders of Business are agenda items that require Board or Commission discussion, debate, direction to staff, and/or action.

- 3) December 2025 Storm Response Efforts
- 4) December 2025 Forester's Report

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

ADJOURNMENT

This agenda was posted at City Hall, Monte Verde Street between Ocean Avenue and 7th Avenue, Harrison Memorial Library, located on the NE corner of Ocean Avenue and Lincoln Street, the Carmel-by-the-Sea Post Office, 5th Avenue between Dolores Street and San Carlos Street, and the City's webpage (<http://www.ci.carmel.ca.us>) in accordance with applicable legal requirements.

SUPPLEMENTAL MATERIAL RECEIVED AFTER THE POSTING OF THE AGENDA

Any supplemental writings or documents distributed to a majority of the Forest & Beach Commission regarding any item on this agenda, received after the posting of the agenda will be available at the Public Works Department located on the east side of Junipero Street between Fourth and Fifth Avenues during normal business hours.

SPECIAL NOTICES TO PUBLIC

In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, if you need special assistance to participate in this meeting, please contact the City Clerk's Office at 831-620-2000 at least 48 hours prior to the meeting to ensure that reasonable arrangements can be made to provide accessibility to the meeting (28CFR 35.102-35.104 ADA Title II).



CITY OF CARMEL-BY-THE-SEA
Forest and Beach Commission
Staff Report

January 15, 2026

CONSENT AGENDA

TO: Forest and Beach Commission

SUBMITTED BY: Yvette Culver, Administrative Coordinator

APPROVED BY: Ken Wysocki, Public Works Director

SUBJECT: Approval of December 11, 2025, Minutes

RECOMMENDATION:

Approve the December 11, 2025, Meeting Minutes.

BACKGROUND / SUMMARY:

The Commission routinely approves Meeting Minutes.

FISCAL IMPACT:

ATTACHMENTS:

1. 12-11-2025 Forest and Beach Commission Minutes (1)

FOREST AND BEACH COMMISSION

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

Thursday, December 11, 2025

TOUR OF INSPECTION

Prior to calling the meeting to order, the Commission conducted an on-site tour of inspection of the property listed below.

1. South East Corner of Mountain View Ave & Crespi Ave/Forest Road (Mission Trail Fuel Mitigation)

CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

Chair Michie called the meeting to order at 2:32 p.m.

PRESENT: Commissioners Sarah Berling, Harry Ross, Neal Rutta, and Chair Tamara Michie

ABSENT: Commissioner Kelly Brezoczky

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Chair Michie led the pledge of allegiance.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Public Works Director Ken Wysocki provided the following updates:

- **Mission Trail Nature Preserve Tour of Inspections:** The Commission completed a tour of inspection today to view thefuel mitigation.....
- **10th and 12th Ave Beach Stairs:** The design is 90% complete. The plan is to go to bid for construction in mid-January, following review by the Planning Department. Construction is hoped to be finished before the end of June, though the budget may cause delays if estimates exceed the allocated funds.
- **4th Avenue Outfall:** Concept designs are in progress, but a geotechnical study is required. The target for construction is late summer 2026.
- **Forest Management Plan:** A public meeting was held October 21, 2025, to review the first draft from Staff. Feedback was received from the steering committee and the public, and edits are being finalized for a draft to be sent for environmental review (CEQA review). (The Draft and Appendices are online?)

PW Director Wysocki introduced Shari Carlet, Project Manager, who started with the City a few months ago and has quickly demonstrated her capabilities and has taken the lead in managing new and existing projects and is working on improving the CIP status reporting.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Cindy Lloyd
Linda Smith
Keith Reekin
Scott Lonergan

CONSENT AGENDA

Motion by Commissioner Rutta to approve items #1-3 on consent agenda, seconded by Commissioner Berling, and approved 4-0-1-0 by the following roll call vote:

AYES: Commissioners Berling, Ross, Rutta, and Chair Michie

NOES: None

ABSENT: Commissioner Brezoczky

ABSTAIN: None

1) Public Works Directors Report for November 2025 - ***Approved 4-0-1-0***

2) Adopt the Forest and Beach Commission Meeting Dates for Calendar Year 2026 - ***Approved 4-0-1-0***

3) Approve the Minutes of the November 13th Forest and Beach Commission Meeting - ***Approved 4-0-1-0***

ORDERS OF BUSINESS

4) Formation of Carmel Beach Adaptation Working Group

Environmental Compliance Manager Mary Bilse said that Chair Michie requested that the Commission consider establishing a Carmel Beach Adaptation Working Group or Ad Hoc to help guide the development and review of sea level rise adaptation strategies for Carmel. She said that the Ad Hoc could be comprised of 1-2 Forest and Beach Commissioners and 1-2 Planning Commissioners, as well as key staff such as herself, Val Gaino, and Community Planning and Building Director Anna Ginette, and possibly members of the public. City Attorney Pierik answered questions from the Commission regarding the composition of the ad hoc or committee and whether or not the committee would be subject to the requirements of the Brown Act.

Public Comment:

Scott Lonergan

Commissioner Rutta asked if the progress of the committee would be hindered by making the committee a Brown Act body due to the public meeting requirements, and the time capacity for the Planning Commission. PW Director Wysocki said that by having a Planning Commissioner on the committee from the start it may save time by having their input along the way. Commissioner

Ross asked what the end goal is of the committee and the purpose. Ms. Bilse said that the committee would be guiding the process of coming up with a plan for adoption and would amend the City's Local Coastal Plan, which requires Planning and City Council approval. She said that the deadline to adopt is early 2027. Mr. Wysocki said that the Planning Commission has provided some dates in the end of January for a joint Forest and Beach and Planning Commission Special meeting.

The Commission agreed that the public will want to be a part of the meetings and have them be public anyway, so creating a committee that is subject to the Brown Act and has a Planning Commission makes the most sense. The consensus agreement of the Commission was to bring the item back next month after talking to the Planning Department about bringing in Planning Commissioners to the formed committee.

5) Mission Trail Nature Preserve Fuel Management Update Page 2 of 33

Rene Aldama presented the item and thanked the Fire Department for their input to improve fire fuel mitigation. He showed progress photos to show what has already been done.

Chair Michie said that the Tree Ad Hoc Committee consisting of herself and Commissioner Rutta, met last week with Justin and City Attorney Pierik and discussed.....

Public Comment:

Cindy Lloyd
Keith Reekin

6) November 2025 Forester's Report

The Commission received the report.

Commissioner Rutta asked if Tree Keeper is a good system that the City plans on keeping. Forester Justin Ono said that he would like to see if Arbor Access is better.

Public Comment:
Keith Reekin
Maria Sutherland

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Beach Hardening? Carmel Cares sign?

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 3:53 p.m.

APPROVED:

ATTEST:

Tamara Michie, Commission Chair

Nova Romer, City Clerk



CITY OF CARMEL-BY-THE-SEA
Forest and Beach Commission
Staff Report

January 15, 2026

CONSENT AGENDA

TO: Forest and Beach Commission

SUBMITTED BY: Ken Wysocki, Director of Public Works

APPROVED BY: Ken Wysocki, Public Works Director

SUBJECT: Directors Report

RECOMMENDATION:

Review and approve the December Directors' Report.

BACKGROUND / SUMMARY:

Review and approve the December Directors' Report.

FISCAL IMPACT:

None for this action.

ATTACHMENTS:

1. Public Works Director's Report December 2025
2. CBTS-25-26 CIP Project-Milestone



CITY OF CARMEL-BY-THE-SEA

Public Works Department December 2025 Report

TO:	Honorable Mayor and City Council Members
SUBMITTED BY:	Ken Wysocki, Public Works Director
SUBMITTED ON:	December 2025

Public Works Director

- The Project Manager and Assistant Forester job recruitment posting closed mid-December. Will begin interviews mid-January.
- All Capital Improvement Projects estimated schedule is now posted on our website. Updates to this report will be on a monthly basis.
- There is a CIP Project Process document available on our website that explains at a high level how projects are processed from concept to closeout.

Environmental Programs

- North Dunes Project:
 - Ice Plant Removal Ongoing: received quote of \$23k for 2.51 acres of ice plant removal; will need additional funding to complete.
 - Renewing 5-year Coastal Development Permit (CDP 16-315); Forest & Beach Commission review June 2026, Planning Commission review July 2026 and approval expected September 2026.
- Carmel Beach Sea Level Rise/Adaptation Project:
 - Socio-Economic Report posted on City website.
 - Will present the Adaptation Pathway Report to Planning Commission and Forest & Beach Commission (joint meeting) in January 29, 2026.
- Stormwater:
 - Winter stormwater construction inspections are ongoing to ensure BMPs continue during the rainy season.
 - Restaurant stormwater inspections are ongoing; ensuring proper management of grease traps, dumpsters, and wash waters.
 - State Water Board has requested an audit. Team working on gathering information as requested for this intense audit.
- Waste Management:
 - Received quote for cleaning downtown trash can devices; cleaning will be scheduled.
 - Waste Management is conducting an audit with staff.
- Copper Gutter Policy
 - BioChar socks installed at the 4th Ave Storm drain; testing to occur after rain.

Facility Maintenance

- Fire Station upgrade project to accommodate a new Fire Truck continues until February.
- Fire Station Flooring Replacement is currently in progress, estimate completion January.
- Fire Station Water Heater Replacement estimate start in January.

- ADA: Working on design to install a handrail on the steps at Devendorf park along Ocean Ave.
- Sunset Center Painting Project RFP: Bids closed, contractor selected. Going to City Council in January for approval, with estimated project start in late-January.
- Forest Theater Stage Repair Project: Bids closed, contractor selected. Going to City Council in January for approval, with estimated project start in February.
- Sunset Center Elevator Power Unit Replacement Project to begin January 5th
- Sunset Center Studio 105 flooring work completed.

Street Maintenance

- Sidewalk repairs (shaving) to fix the 1,426 sidewalk locations starting January 12th.
- Cleaned out the City's drain system in preparation for December rains.
- Continued sidewalk repairs and hot-mix street repairs throughout the City.

Project Management for the Capital Improvement Program

Shoreline:

- Beach Stairs: 90% design submitted to City Planning Department for review. Estimate going out to bid at the end of January, with construction estimated to begin March. Depending on the bids, we maybe able to do both 10th Ave and 12th Ave stairs.
- 4th Ave Outfall Design Concepts: concept sketches provided by contractor. Staff requested additional information.
- Sand Ramp: Stepping up concept designs and recommendations. Continuing to work with contractor for possible 2 design options.

Additional Capital Improvement Projects:

- Conglomerate Paving Project: includes street paving work, selected sidewalk repairs, and asphalt concrete (AC) berm repairs, started Nov 12th, estimated completion in April.
 - Ocean Ave (County side) completed from Hwy1 to Carpenter St. .
 - Ocean Ave & San Antonio to begin January 5th.
 - You can see current status updates with a 3 week schedule look-ahead and map of all the paving areas for this project on our City website.

Forestry, Parks, and Beach

- Refer to City Forester's Report.



**CITY OF CARMEL-BY-THE-SEA
Forest and Beach Commission
Staff Report**

January 15, 2026

ORDERS OF BUSINESS

TO: Forest and Beach Commission

SUBMITTED BY: Justin Ono, City Forester

APPROVED BY: Ken Wysocki, Public Works Director

SUBJECT: December 2025 Storm Response Efforts

RECOMMENDATION:

Discuss the December 2025 Storm Response

BACKGROUND / SUMMARY:

During the holiday season of December 2025, Carmel by the Sea was impacted by heavy storms and power outages which last roughly 4 days. City Forester will discuss the impacts and our response efforts focusing on safety and debris clean-up.

FISCAL IMPACT:

None

ATTACHMENTS:

None



**CITY OF CARMEL-BY-THE-SEA
Forest and Beach Commission
Staff Report**

January 15, 2026

ORDERS OF BUSINESS

TO: Forest and Beach Commission

SUBMITTED BY: Justin Ono, City Forester

APPROVED BY: Ken Wysocki, Public Works Director

SUBJECT: December 2025 Forester's Report

RECOMMENDATION:

Receive a presentation on the December 2025 Forester's Report

BACKGROUND / SUMMARY:

FISCAL IMPACT:

None at this time

ATTACHMENTS:

1. December Foresters Report for Jan 15 Mtg



CITY OF CARMEL-BY-THE-SEA

Monthly Report

City Forester's Report

TO: Forest and Beach Commissioners
FROM: Justin Ono, City Forester
SUBJECT: December 2025 Forester's Report

Forestry, Parks, and Beach Highlights:

Carmel Forest Master Plan (CFMP):

- Staff has compiled comments and has made the final edits to send to Dudek to begin the CEQA review.

Contractors:

- During the Christmas storms all three contractors were working to clear downed trees from roads and property.
- Our contractors have begun marking stumps for removal of the recently completed 34 removals on task orders.
- Staff recently issued a new task order for removal and pruning, which includes 21 pruning jobs and 14 removals.
- Town & Country has prepped the Rio Road Medians and has begun the relandscaping project.

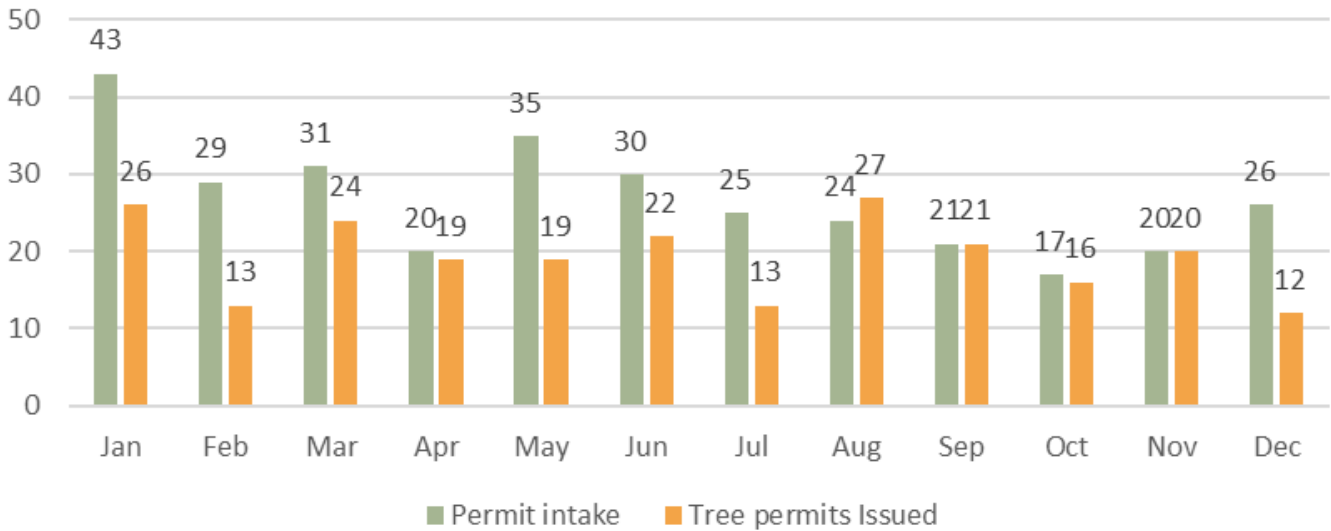
City Staff and Crews:

- City Forestry Crew removed 5 dead, dying, or invasive trees, planted 5 trees, and pruned 18 trees providing clearance for roads and stop signs, as well as maintaining tree health.
- City Tree Crew responded to emergencies on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day and continued cleanup efforts into the week of New Years.

Permit Information

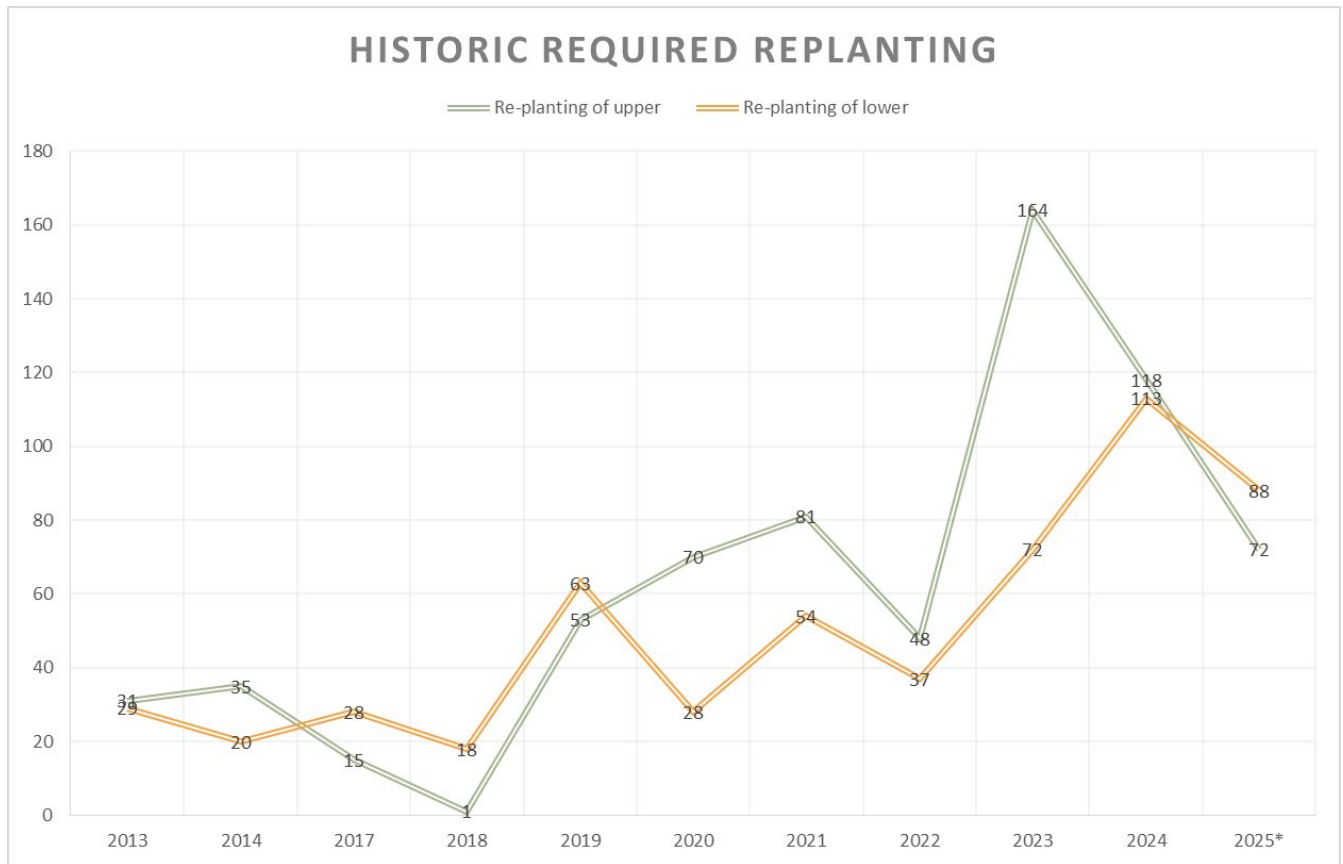
2025 Permitted removals, pruning, and required planting												
	Tree permits received	Tree permits Issued	Site Inspections Performed	Total Prunings	Total Removals	Removal of Upper	Removal of Lower	Required to Plant Upper	Required to Plant Lower	No room for new tree	Meets Density Rec.	Total Number of Trees Required
January	43	26	9	10	18	12	6	7	9	0	2	16
February	29	13	8	15	15	9	6	6	8	0	0	14
March	31	24	8	21	9	3	6	0	2	0	7	2
April	20	19	3	21	17	10	7	8	6	1	1	14
May	35	19	7	17	19	8	11	11	11	0	0	22
June	24	22	6	15	22	9	13	14	18	0	0	32
July	25	13	6	4	15	8	7	15	10	0	0	25
August	24	27	8	19	21	9	12	2	1	1	3	3
September	21	21	4	25	30	14	16	4	6	1	0	10
October	17	16	6	9	22	7	15	2	5	0	2	7
November	20	20	8	13	19	8	11	1	10	0	0	11
December	26	12	6	27	15	5	10	2	2	0	1	4
2024 Totals	315	232	79	196	222	102	120	72	88	3	16	160

2025 Permits Intake vs. Issued

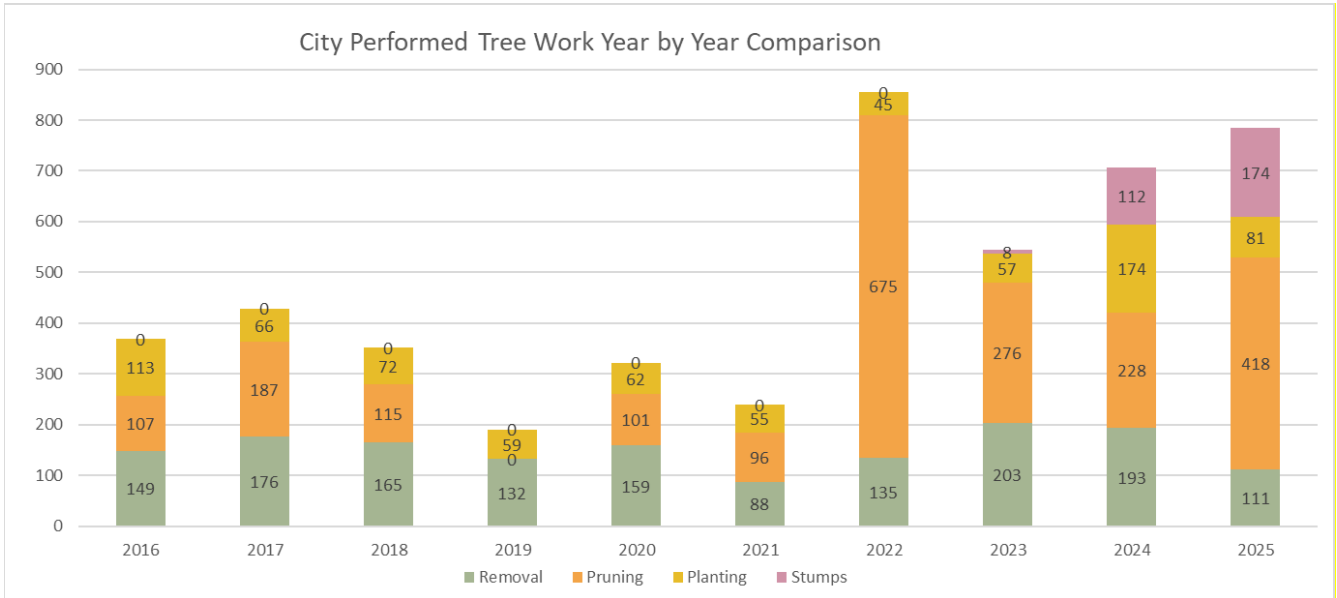


Historic permitted removals and required planting

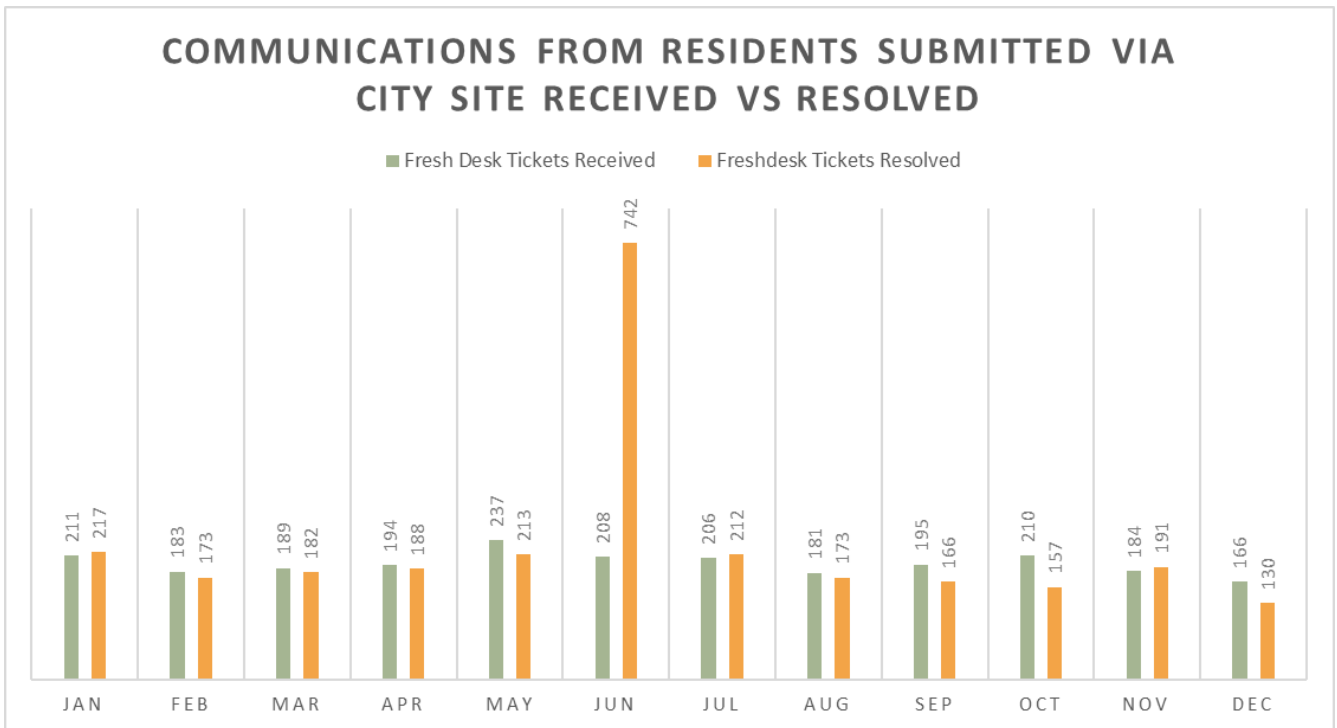
Year	Permitted removals	Removal of upper	Removal of lower	Replanting Required	Replanting of upper	Replanting of lower	Replanting %	Applications processed
2021	204	81	123	135	81	54	66.18%	213
2022	149	82	67	85	48	37	57.05%	155
2023	324	211	113	223	164	72	68.83%	336
2024	231	110	121	231	118	113	100.00%	391
2025	222	102	120	160	72	88	72.07%	315



City Forestry, Parks, and Beach Activities



Calendar year to date – Includes stumps removed by City crew as well as on call tree contractors.



*Numbers only represent correspondences received via the City’s website and do not include live calls, voicemails, drop-in visitors, and emails sent directly to employees from residents, nor return calls and emails from staff. Spike in last months resolutions due to large scale data cleanup.

Tree Inventory and Deferred Maintenance 'Catch Up' Status

The 3-Year "Catch Up Plan":

Year 1 of the anticipated 3-year plan to catch up on deferred maintenance was a resounding success. The following chart reflects outcomes from the past year and a half. Staff is currently updating our goals for this new Fiscal Year 2025-26 in light of our newly approved FY 25-26 budget of \$981,500, as well as cleaning data in our software to ensure we start out with the most accurate information possible. We will continue to provide monthly updates to our plans in each subsequent Forester's Report.

Year 2 of Forestry 3 year catch up	
	Trees in Dead or Very Poor Condition
2024 Inventory	321
Dec 2025	59 (only 2 "dead")