



TREE COMMITTEE AGENDA REPORT

SUBJECT: 2025 ENGINEERING STANDARDS UPDATE, STREET TREES MAJOR LIST (8020)

FROM: Walter Gault, Urban Forestry Program Coordinator / City Arborist
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1.0 RECOMMENDATION

Review proposed updates to the Street Trees Major List (Engineering Standard 8020) and provide recommendations to the City Arborist.

2.0 BACKGROUND

[Municipal Code Section 12.24.040](#) states that the Tree Committee, with the assistance of the Public Works and Community Development departments, has developed and will maintain a Street Tree Master List and a Street Trees Major Streets List which shall be adopted by resolution of the City Council and shall be on file in the Public Works Department, Engineering Standards. These documents shall specify the species of trees suitable and desirable for planting in certain areas in order to establish a diverse urban forest.

3.0 DISCUSSION

The City is updating its Engineering Standards in 2025. Updates to the City's Master Tree List (Attachment A) that were reviewed by the Tree Committee in October 2022 but have yet to be reflected in the Street Trees Major List (Attachment B). Staff is proposing the changes proposed to the Street Trees Major List below (and highlighted in Attachment C) to correct errors on the document, update cultivars to reflect nursery availability, and make some minor revisions based on staff observations. Additionally, some species on the Street Trees Major Lists are either no longer available or are no longer suitable for the City's climate or urban environment.

Below is a list of the recommended changes proposed by staff. Links are provided that give more detailed information about the tree species discussed below.

Replace [Platanus x hispanica](#)

- It's widely used on the list, but it is no longer in nursery production
- Replace with [Platanus x acerifolia 'Columbia'](#), a more anthracnose resistant cultivar than ['Bloodgood'](#)
- At creek crossings use [Platanus racemosa](#)

Remove *Lagerstroemia* (Crape Myrtle)

- No longer on the Street Tree Master List

Update Ginkgo references

- Ginkgo is utilized as a specific '[Fairmont](#)' cultivar and then broadly
- Adjust all to be [Ginkgo biloba 'Princeton Sentry'](#), a faster growing cultivar

Remove [Metrosideros excelsa](#)

- Not a performer in SLO's climate
- Remove it from Downtown accent trees list

Remove [Magnolia grandifolia 'little gem'](#) and [Magnolia 'Majestic Beauty'](#) for all entries

- Not a suitable street tree due to root damage
- Susceptible to aphids and scale
- Consider replacing 'Little Gem' with [Michelia doltsopa](#), a similar looking species with low root damage potential.

Remove [Fagus sylvatica \(European Beech\)](#)

- High water use, not suitable for climate

Remove [Pinus canariensis \(Canary Island Pine\)](#) and [Hesperocyparis macrocarpa \(Monterey Cypress\)](#)

- Not desirable as street trees

Adjust *Quercus* (oak) entries to be broader (e.g. *Quercus* sp. "evergreen")

- [Quercus ilex](#) (Holm Oak) is susceptible to sooty mold on its leaves and has epicormic sprouts along trunk
- [Quercus rubra](#) (Red Oak) and [palustris](#) (Pin Oak) are eastern oak species

4.0 ACTIONS

- 4.1 Recommend support of the proposed updates to the Street Trees Major Streets List (Engineering Standard 8020) and propose adjustments. This action may include recommendations to modify the proposed updates.
- 4.2 Continue the review to a hearing date certain, or uncertain. An action continuing review of the updates to the Street Trees Major Streets List (Engineering Standard 8020) should include direction to staff on pertinent issues.

5.0 ATTACHMENTS

A - Updated Proposed Master Tree List

B - Street Trees Major Streets Engineering Standard 8020

C - Engineering Standard 8020 Highlighted