

FY 21/22
COMPREHENSIVE
TREE PROGRAM
ANNUAL REPORT



TREES ARE VALUABLE assets to our park system. They expand usability of parks, raise mental and physical health, provide shade, moderate and cool climate, create sound buffers, contribute to biodiversity and healthy ecosystems, and clean air to reduce pollution.

In DPR's campgrounds and event venues, sites that have trees—or shade from them—book faster and more often than those without. They are an essential part of many park experiences, from reading a good book to saying, “I Do” under a leafy altar. For these reasons and others, we are doing what we can to protect our trees and to be forward-thinking when it comes to ways to save them.

DPR maintains a no-net loss tree canopy in San Diego, which means we re-plant lost trees at a ratio of 3:1.

Our Comprehensive Tree Program catalogs existing trees, counteracts the causes of tree loss, and establishes requirements for maintaining tree density and diversity in all County parks and preserves. This robust commitment to preserving and expanding San Diego's tree canopy includes a goal of planting 3,500 trees per year.

Planting trees is only part of the equation; equally important is the need to nurture and monitor trees. DPR staff hand-water or install temporary watering systems to enhance the trees' natural ability to absorb water, nutrients and to perform metabolic functions.



The Wedding Tree at Louis A. Stelzer County Park

DID YOU KNOW?



DPR's Comprehensive Tree Program has put over 30,000 trees in the ground, which equates to the removal of approximately 956 MTCO₂, every year!

FY 21/22 HIGHLIGHTS PLANTING

DPR staff and volunteers planted **4,192** new trees, in varying sizes, at 54 County parks.

A total of **283** were removed that were dead or diseased, posing a threat to park visitors.

Of the trees planted, **92%** (3,847) were native to the parks in which they were planted.

The total number of species planted was **54**.

In some parks, new non-native trees are planted based on historic significance, like the bougainvillea at Rancho Guajome Adobe, or for decorative purposes, like the resident palm trees at Rancho Penasquitos Adobe, and for decorative value, like the annually-lit holiday tree at Fallbrook Community Center.



FY 21/22
TREE COUNTS

Tree Counts at San Diego County Parks

Adams Park	3
Bancroft County Park and Rock House	16
Barnett Ranch County Preserve	56
Boulder Oaks County Preserve	91
Cole Grade County Park	12
Cottonwood County Park	3
Damon Lane Park	1
Del Dios Highlands County Preserve	3
Dictionary Hill County Preserve	200
Dos Picos County Park.....	71
Eastview County Park	40
El Monte County Park.....	117
Estrella County Park	8
Eucalyptus County Park	7
Felicita County Park	87
Flinn Springs County Park	540
Guajome County Park.....	31
Heritage County Park.....	1
Hilton Head County Park.....	5
Historic Flume Corridor	6
Holly Oaks County Preserve	5
Ildica County Park	22
Kumeyaay Valley County Park.....	8
Lake Morena County Park	77
Lamar County Park.....	15
Lindo Lake County Park	252
Live Oak County Park.....	33
Los Penasquitos Canyon County Preserve	24
Louis A. Stelzer County Park	221
Morrison Pond.....	1
Oakoasis County Preserve.....	50
Old Ironsides County Park	5
Otay Valley Regional Park.....	48
Pine Valley County Park.....	34
Potrero County Park.....	214
Rainbow County Park.....	9
Ramona Grasslands County Preserve.....	5
Rancho Guajome Adobe	43
Rancho Penasquitos Adobe.....	90
San Dieguito County Park	68
San Elijo Lagoon Ecological Reserve	467
San Luis Rey River Park	52
Santa Ysabel East County Preserve.....	53
Santa Ysabel West County Preserve	4
Spring Valley County Park	7
Steele Canyon County Park.....	5
Sweetwater Place County Park	3
Sweetwater Regional Park	258
Sycamore Canyon / Goodan Ranch County Preserve	322
Tijuana River Valley Regional Park.....	38
Valley Center Community Center	12
Wilderness Gardens County Preserve	75
William Heise County Park.....	266
Woodhaven County Park	51
Not Logged	57
Totals.....	4192

Tree Counts by Breed (Common name listed)

Aleppo Pine	79
Arroyo Willow	28
Ash	1
Australian Willow	13
Bay Laurel.....	2
Blue Elderberry	79
Brisbane Box.....	14
California Black Walnut.....	15
California Laurel.....	10
California Sycamore	303
Canary Island Pine	2
Catalina Cherry.....	12
Chinese Elm.....	2
Chinese Flame Tree	2
Chinese Pistache.....	5
Chir Pine	6
Coast Live Oak	1931
Common Crape myrtle	23
Cork Oak	6
Cypress.....	1
Deodar Cedar	22
Desert Museum Palo Verde.....	16
Engelmann Oak.....	337
Fern Pine	1
Fremont Cottonwood	95
Gold Medallion Tree.....	3
Goodding's Willow	43
Hollyleaf Cherry.....	19
Incense Cedar.....	86
Italian Cypress	1
Jacaranda.....	1
Jojoba	9
Laurel Sumac	191
Lemonade Berry.....	237
Marina Madrone	1
Mexican Eldelberry	42
Myrtle	10
Nuttall's Scrub Oak.....	23
Olive	3
Pacific Wax Myrtle	2
Peppermint Tree.....	5
Pink Trumpet Tree	4
Raywood Ash	7
Scrub Oak	2
Strawberry Tree	3
Sugar Bush	40
Tecate Cypress	4
Tipu Tree.....	9
Torrey Pine	18
Toyon.....	379
Western Redbud	16
White Alder	26
Wilson fruitless Olive Tree.....	1
Yucca.....	2
TOTAL	4192

FY 21/22 HIGHLIGHTS
MOST POPULAR



In Fiscal Year 2021-2022, the Coast Live Oak was the tree that was planted the most. This native species has been devastated in many areas, by an invasive pest known as the Gold Spotted Oak Borer (GSOB), especially in our mountain regions. Because this tree grows naturally in many of our parks, and staff can harvest the acorns they drop to grow seedlings for future plantings, they are a great fit to replace lost native trees.

FY 21/22 HIGHLIGHTS

MOST LIKELY TO SUCCEED

The following images feature the top 10 tree species that were planted during this time frame in County parks, along with the totals planted.



#1 Coast Live Oak 1,931



#3 Engelmann Oak 337



#2 Toyon 379



#4 California Sycamore 303



#5 Lemonade Berry 237



#7 Fremont Cottonwood 95



#9 Blue Elderberry 79



#6 Laurel Sumac 191



#8 Incense Cedar 86



#10 Aleppo Pine 79

REGIONAL LEADERS IN TREE MANAGEMENT



If left untreated, a tree that is infested with GSOB faces a mortality rate of about 100% percent – but if treated, the tree has a survival rate of about 90%. This is why DPR is dedicated to treating affected trees in the 13 parks where GSOB is present. Additionally, and to reforest areas that have been significantly impacted by GSOB, DPR staff plant different types of native trees in those parks, representing a variety of ages and sizes, from young seedlings to more mature large-box trees. These diversified plantings improve the likelihood of reforestation; GSOB only attacks oaks, so other species, like sycamores, may survive in their place.

ADVANCE REGENERATION

Another focus of our Comprehensive Tree Program is to support the natural regrowth of our parks' tree canopies, specifically Coast Live Oaks. Our Advance Regeneration Program is one of the most effective native oak propagation techniques in the industry. Its purpose is to give trees what they need to sustain health and resiliency, to fill gaps in and to expand our broader tree population.

The selective pressure exerted on hundreds of acorns germinating under a tree canopy will allow only the surviving saplings, carrying the best genetic material, to thrive. Unfortunately, this process does not happen with trees grown in nurseries that have gone through root system manipulation, so DPR is also planting young Coast Live Oaks under more mature oaks. This augments the selective process, creating stronger options for tree replacement in the future.



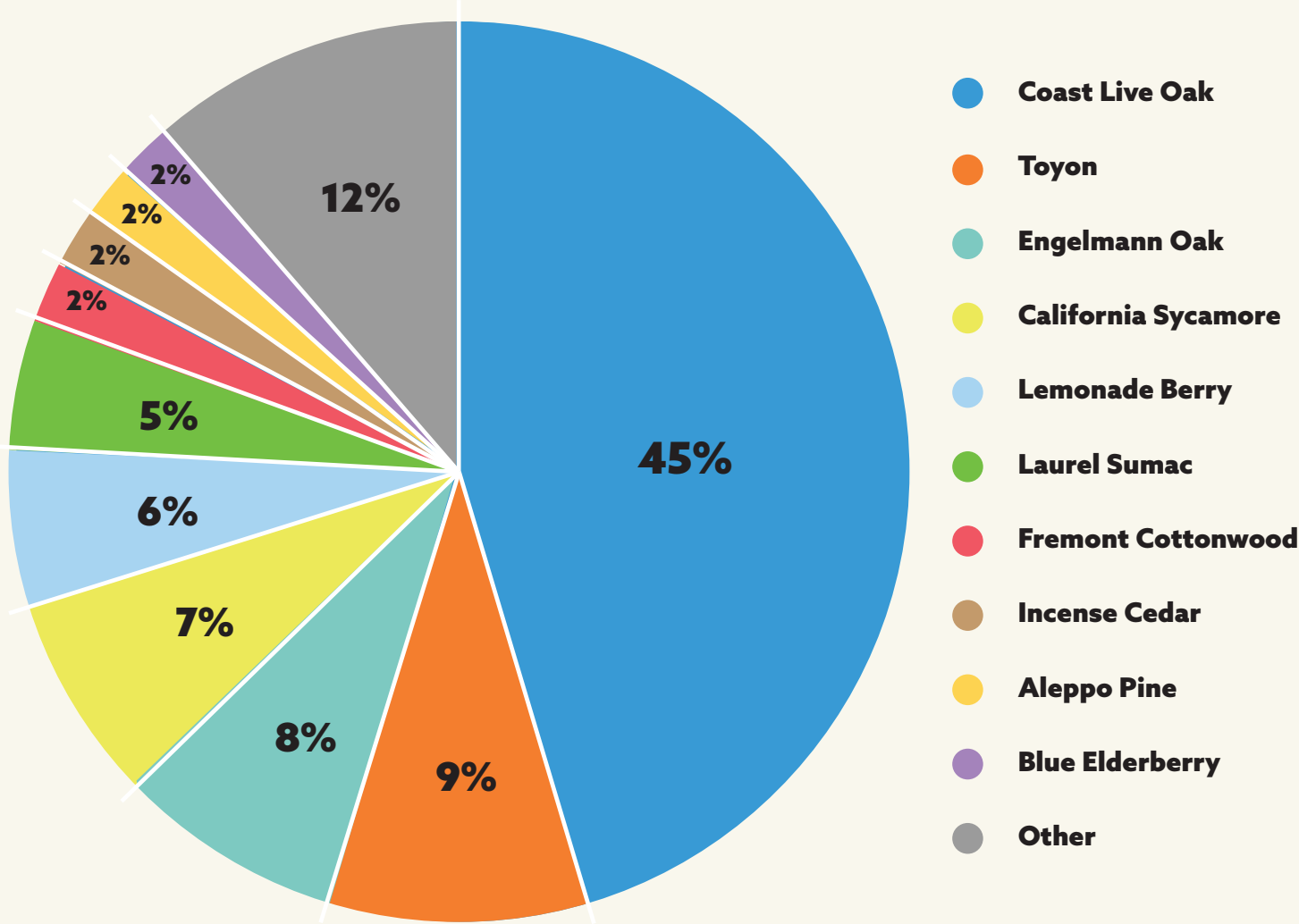
DID YOU KNOW?

In most of our camping parks, and in many campgrounds across California, Buy-it-Where-You-Burn-it campaigns are in place to prevent diseased firewood from entering parks where the presence of infected wood can cause significant damage to that park's existing tree population.

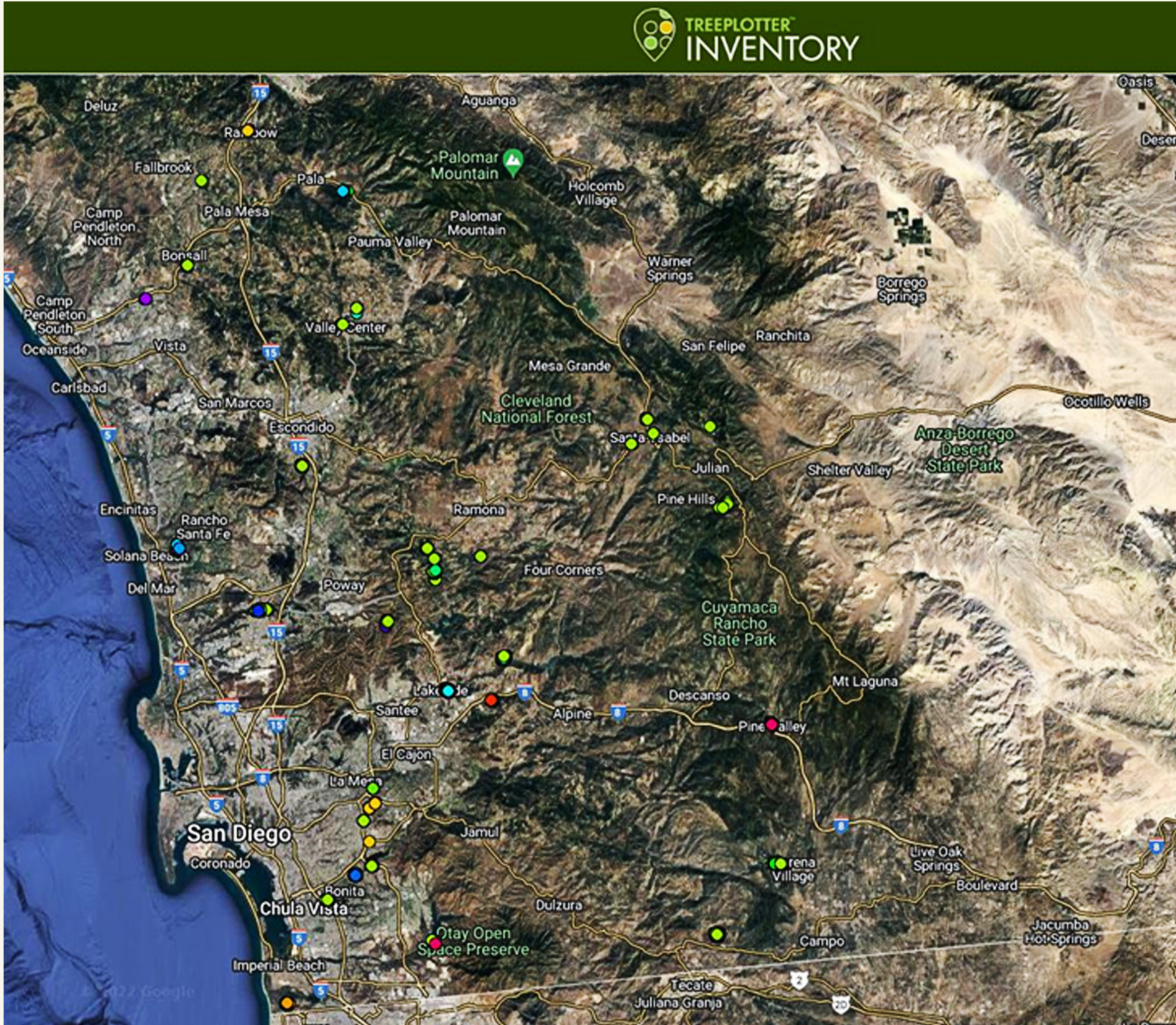
Firewood is available for purchase on site, and park rangers will often stop campers from burning wood that is not purchased at the source. The firewood that is sold is usually wood that comes from the park – cut from trees that are already damaged, then solarized until the infection is gone and repurposed into logs. Chopped trees that are not used for firewood may be chipped and solarized to use on trails and in campsites. In some instances, they have been transformed into art, as park benches or wildlife displays.

WHERE TREES MAKE THE MOST IMPACT

DPR uses the California Healthy Places Index (HPI), provided through the Public Health Alliance of Southern California, to identify parks in underserved communities where there is a lack of access to healthy tree canopies. In the past year, 77% of the parks where new trees were planted were listed in the lower half of the quadrants for tree canopy coverage and/or healthy community conditions. This geography-based prioritization of tree plantings helps to address inequities in open space and the benefits those spaces offer.



TECHNICAL TRACKING



DPR tracks tree plantings and removals using the TreePlotter Inventory System. TreePlotter allows us to map where trees have been planted, what species they are, and how they support a full tree canopy. A growing number of staff are learning how to inventory trees using both their work cell phones and desktop computers, and the increase in data is leading to more thorough reports and explanatory graphics.

PAYING IT FORWARD



DPR uses volunteer plantings to connect people to their parks through environmental education and action. When people plant trees, there is a good chance they will form a connection to that tree, and even to the park. Hundreds of individuals and dozens of groups plant trees in parks every year – like Girl and Boy Scouts, service clubs, church groups, Navy personnel and County employees. DPR's Volunteer Coordinator works closely with park staff to identify tree planting opportunities, matching residents to parks based on location, availability and interest.