



KEEPING DOWNTOWN CLEAN & BEAUTIFUL

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

PBID and City announce new program to prune downtown trees

SAN JOSE – A comprehensive private-public partnership involving Groundwerx, the City of San Jose and Redevelopment Agency will take care of downtown’s urban forest starting Oct. 18. The downtown San Jose Property-Based Improvement District (PBID) will add trimming of approximately 2,500 trees to its Groundwerx cleaning and beautification services.

The \$110,000-per-year budget is funded mostly out of the assessments PBID members currently pay. Since roughly 20 percent of downtown street trees are in medians, the city has pledged to contribute that level of funding (\$20,000) to the trimming program.

Last year’s winter storms, which caused limbs to snap and some trees to fall, brought a great deal of attention to San Jose trees. The PBID Board of Directors learned the City Municipal Code specifies that trees in the public realm are the adjacent property owner’s responsibility, and if the city performs emergency trimming, then it bills the property owner. Ordinarily, trimming one tree at a time can cost as much as \$400.

Under the new system, the PBID-City partnership will leverage its funds and receive “volume” tree trimming services, which should result in better quality control, a more uniform appearance and allow every tree to receive structural pruning at least once every four years, the normal pruning cycle for sycamores, the predominant tree downtown.

“This agreement will enable PBID property owners to receive the benefit of the city’s pricing for pruning of downtown’s street trees,” said Hans Larsen, acting director of the San Jose Department of Transportation. “On average, the cost using this aggregate approach is in the range of \$75-\$100 per tree.”

Work on about 950 trees this first year is scheduled to occur from Oct. 18 through mid-December. Palms and jacarandas require annual maintenance, plus sycamores along San Carlos, Market, Third, Fourth and Balbach streets are in the first-year cycle. Arborists

will take a close look at all downtown's trees, and some contingency funding is available in the budget to prune those trees that need immediate attention.

"Our trees are a wonderful asset, contributing much to the aesthetics of downtown San Jose," said Chuck Hammers, PBID president. "We look forward to taking care of them with all of the attention to detail Groundwerx brings to cleaning the sidewalks, picking up trash and installing flowers and planters."

The four-year trimming cycle is posted at www.sjdowntown.com/PBID-Groundwerx.

Other program facts:

- Tentative tree-trimming schedule (subject to change depending on weather and the number of trees requiring emergency service):
 - Starting Oct. 18 – Trimming palms on Almaden Boulevard, about 1-2 weeks to complete;
 - Starting Oct. 25 – Second crew will work on remaining palms on Almaden Boulevard; and address emergency tree issues;
 - Starting Nov. 1 – Trimming on San Carlos, Market and Balbach streets, 1-2 weeks;
 - About Nov. 10 – Trimming on Third and Fourth streets;
 - About Dec. 16 – Targeted completion date, assuming no weather delays.
- West Coast Arborists, a city contractor, will perform pruning and emergency tree care Monday-Friday, 9 a.m.-3 p.m.
- Downtown's palms were most recently pruned in July/Aug 2009. The palms were also fertilized sometime in 2009.
- Downtown parks are not part of this program.
- See attachment for list and location of downtown trees.

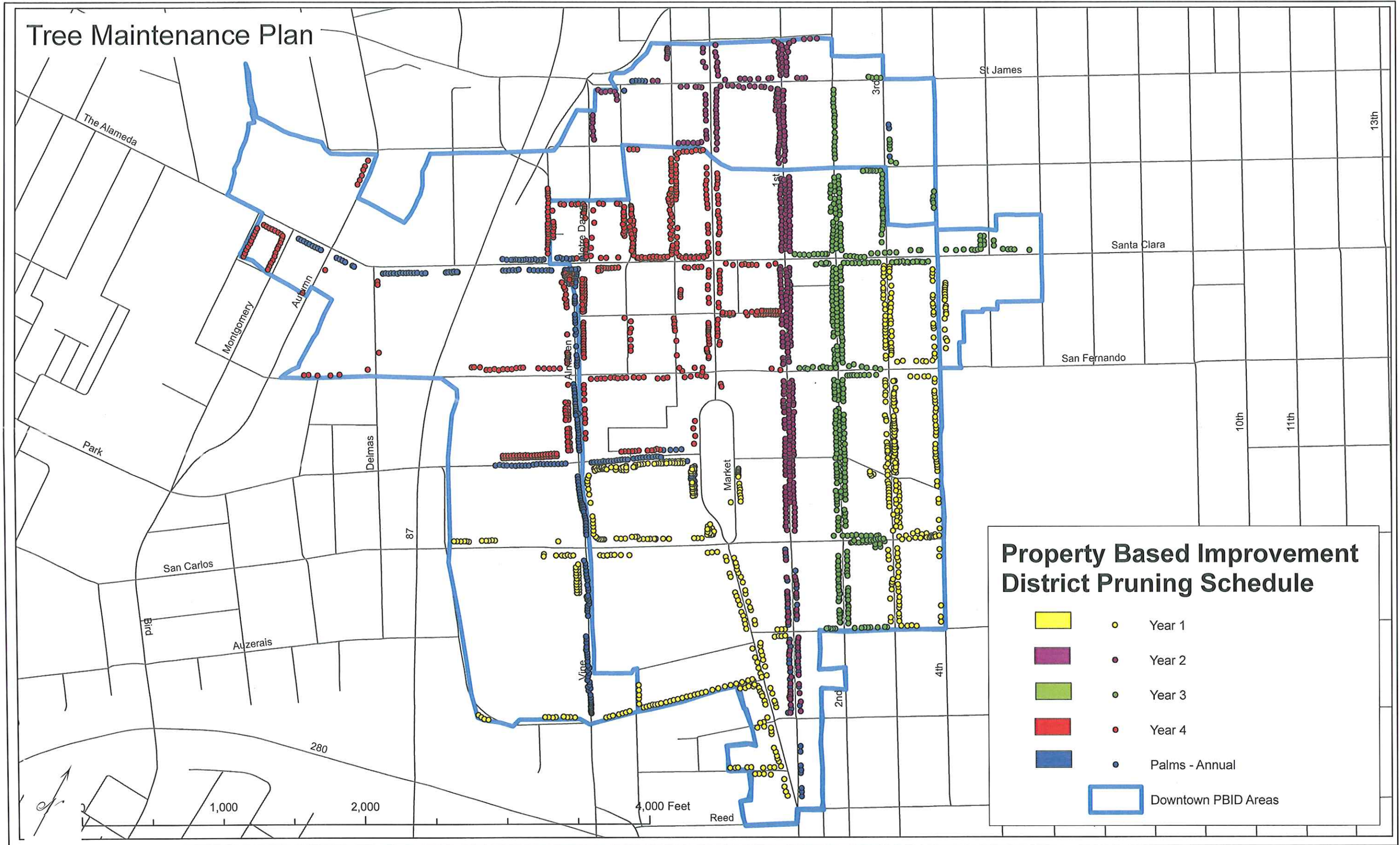
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The San Jose Downtown Property Owners Association is a non-profit group that funds Groundwerx efforts to make downtown a cleaner, friendlier and more beautiful place.

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Downtown Property-Based Improvement District



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"Top Ten" Tree Species

