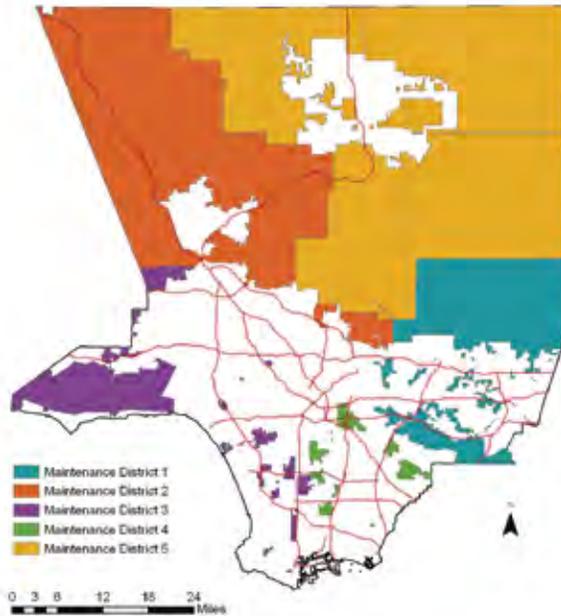


## LOS ANGELES COUNTY ROAD MAINTENANCE DISTRICTS



### Sustainable community solutions

Because the County has approximately 170,000 trees, over 2,600 miles of sidewalk, nearly 3,400 miles of curb and gutter, and over 9,500 lane miles of roadway to maintain, our choices for how to maintain the trees, the street and parkway need to be economically sustainable.

### Parkway tree species selection

When parkway trees are replaced, the County makes every effort to select tree species that are both complimentary to the other parkway trees in the neighborhood and appropriately sized at maturity for the parkway. To see an image and learn more about a tree that has been recommended by the Urban Forestry Unit, please visit our website: [pw.lacounty.gov/rmd/parkwaytrees](http://pw.lacounty.gov/rmd/parkwaytrees).

### Private trees

Parkway trees are not the only trees that sometimes damage public infrastructure. At times, roots from private trees extend under and displace sidewalks. When this occurs, the County will notify the underlying property owner and provide them with the opportunity to root prune their tree so that the County can replace the sidewalk without damaging the private tree. If the tree roots are not pruned, the County may opt to replace the concrete sidewalk with asphalt in order to better preserve an accessible sidewalk surface.

### Contact Us:

[pw.lacounty.gov/rmd/parkwaytrees](http://pw.lacounty.gov/rmd/parkwaytrees)

MD1: 626-337-1277

MD2: 626-300-2080

MD3: 310-348-6448

MD4: 562-869-1176

MD5: 661-947-7173

### Urgent Matters:

800-675-HELP (4357)

# Los Angeles County PARKWAY TREES & CONCRETE



Creating a Sustainable Urban Forest

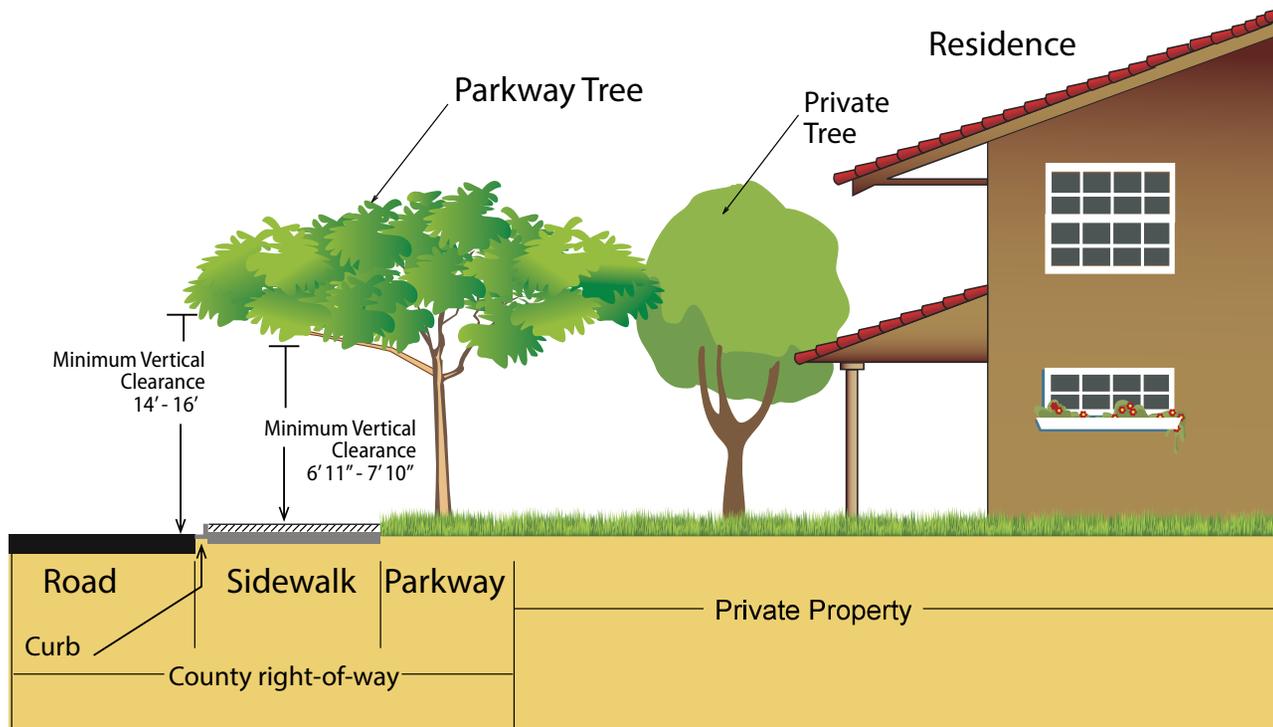


Fig. 1

## What is a parkway tree?

A parkway tree is a tree that was planted by the County of Los Angeles or developer who built the home or building, adjacent to the edge of the roadway and/or sidewalk within the County's road right-of-way (Fig. 1). The County values these trees as they play an important role in providing a healthy community.

## Maintaining Roadway Infrastructure and Parkway Trees

The County of Los Angeles aims to maintain healthy parkway trees while providing safe travel for motorists and cyclists on County roadways and safe access for all pedestrians, including those with mobility challenges. To accomplish this, the street pavement, curb, gutter, and sidewalk are routinely maintained and periodically replaced. As parkway trees in our urban forest age, their canopy and roots grow. Often the parkway tree roots grow beyond the narrow green space between the sidewalk and curb and, in the process, displace the adjacent infrastructure.

Parkway trees are a precious natural resource for the County. Therefore, trees are generally only removed when they are dying or dead, diseased, structurally unsound, outgrown their current space and cannot be safely root pruned to accommodate adjacent infrastructure repair and by County/Arborists discretion.

Public safety is paramount in our decision making process. In cases where parkway trees are removed, replacement trees are generally offered to the property owners if suitable space is available in the parkway and the adjacent resident agrees to care for the tree through its establishment period. In rare instances, space constraints between driveways, house walkways, underground utilities, meter boxes, fire hydrants, or street lights may prevent replacement trees from being planted.

## Why are parkway trees root pruned?

Parkway trees are sometimes root pruned in order to accommodate an adjacent infrastructure repair. Before a tree is root pruned, it is evaluated by the County's Urban Forestry Unit to determine whether the tree can be safely root pruned per the

International Society of Arboriculture (ISA) standards. If the tree cannot be safely root pruned, it may be removed and in most cases, replaced.

## Why can't all parkway trees be safely root pruned?

Most tree roots grow two to three times beyond the drip line of the tree canopy and exist in the top 18" of soil (Fig. 2). There are many factors that affect a tree's tolerance for root pruning including the following:

- Root size** – Cutting large roots creates greater stress on the tree.
- Number of roots cut** – The more roots pruned, the greater the stress on the tree.
- Proximity of the cuts to the tree trunk** – The closer the cuts to the trunk of the tree, the greater the stress on the tree.
- Species of the tree** – Certain species can tolerate root pruning better than others.
- Age of the tree** – The older the tree, the less tolerant the tree is to root pruning.
- Condition of the tree** – Trees that are in poor or declining health should not be root pruned.
- Lean of the tree** – Leaning trees should not be root pruned.

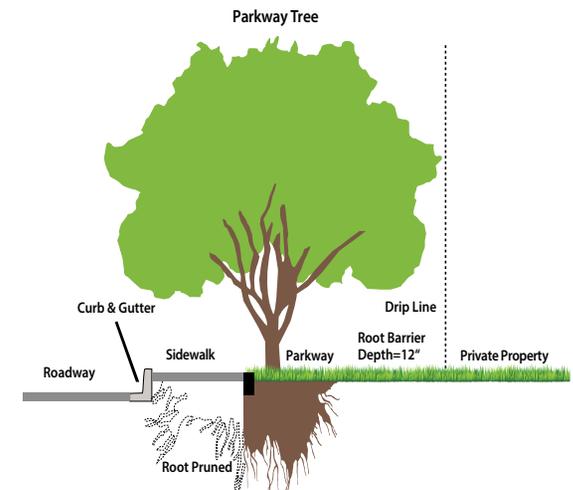


Fig. 2 \*Root pruning on more than one side of the tree is not recommended. This is meant for illustration purposes only.