



## WHAT IS THE URBAN GREENING MASTER PLAN?

The Richmond Urban Greening Master Plan will assess and prioritize opportunities to expand and enhance green spaces within the City of Richmond in coordination with other related and on-going plans and projects such as the Livable Corridors Project, the Bicycle Master Plan, and the Pedestrian Plan. A major focus of the initial phase of the Greening Plan includes management and planning for Richmond’s urban forest.

## WHAT IS THE URBAN FOREST?

The urban forest is made up of the trees found within the boundaries of a community. They include publicly and privately owned trees growing in parks, near schools, within residential yards, on the grounds of institutions and along streets.

Trees within the urban forest may have very different appearances. Although much of the urban forest is planted intentionally, such as the regularly spaced trees that line city streets and the trees found in community parks, there may also be naturally occurring trees that predate development. The urban forest may also be found on “leftover” unused land where untended plants and trees may take up root.

## BENEFITS OF THE URBAN FOREST

While each part of the urban forest may look different, research has proven that all provide important benefits to the community:

- Air quality is improved and oxygen created by plant transpiration
- Carbon dioxide exchange captures and holds carbon from the atmosphere
- Cooling shade reduces “heat island” effect and lowers energy use
- Water quality is improved and storm water runoff is reduced



## PROJECT GOALS

Urban forests are dynamic and ever changing, so careful management is needed to achieve the maximum benefit possible from this important resource. This is a primary goal of the Richmond Urban Greening Master Plan. To achieve this goal the project includes:

- Expansion of the current inventory of City owned trees through tree planting programs and modernization of the inventory and assessment tools used by the City.
- Development of tree planting guidelines to improve the urban forest.
- An update of the City tree ordinance and the development of an Urban Forest Advisory Committee composed of neighborhood representatives, community groups, and urban forest professionals.
- Public programs to increase public awareness of the value of the urban forest.



*This urban greening project is being funded in part by an Urban Greening for Sustainable Communities Planning Grant funded by The Safe Drinking Water, Water Quality and Supply, Flood Control, River and Coastal Protection Bond Act of 2006 and awarded by the California Strategic Growth Council.*