

Recommendation to the Planning Department for Venice Community Plan

Because Venice abuts the Ocean and the environmental health of the community impacts a resource for not just Los Angeles but for the world, and because trees, green space and plantings can impact that environmental health as well as the residents of Venice, we make the following recommendations for the Venice Community Plan:

It is the goal of the Venice Community Plan that ten years from adoption that each resident will be able to see at least three trees from their apartment, condominium or house, and have 30% tree canopy in their immediate vicinity.

This is to be accomplished as follows:

In the public right-of-way, the departments of Street Services and Sanitation will make changes to streets, parkways and sidewalks to allow the commensurate planting of trees to meet the above goal, and with as many larger tree species as possible, by expanding the size of tree wells, e.g. 4.5'x4.5' to 5'x10', including the use of "bump outs," either into the existing sidewalks or into the parking lane, to accommodate larger species, the identification and planting with trees of surplus street areas, i.e., small areas of asphalt not needed for transit, and/or utilizing one or two parking spaces per block for tree planting (varying on the length of the block), and/or installing medians (or islands) on the widest streets to create tree-lined avenues, and/or removing parkway concrete to create continuous, permeable rain gardens, with trees, to promote groundwater infiltration and reduce urban runoff.

On private property, the city shall require at least 8% of the total parcel area (not including any of the required setback area) for trees, to allow for "tree wells," i.e., 10 foot width from the side property line (perpendicular) and 10 foot depth (parallel to the property line) to create spaces for large native shade trees to grow, and require that all plans comply with LAMC 12.12C.1.(g) and require each parcel to preserve significant mature trees (measuring 12 inches and bigger at Diameter Breast Height), and to plant (or preserve) a minimum of one large native shade tree per unit (which may also be placed in rear or front yard), and to follow an inch-for-inch 2:1 tree replacement if any trees are removed, the species to be in accordance with an approved private-property master tree list and to be planted within Venice, if not that private property lot affected by the removal.

We recommend that the draft community plan be reviewed to assure that any greater density and building height greater than now allowed by the Venice Local Coastal Specific Plan be limited to the widest streets in Venice; e.g., Venice and Washington Boulevards, and Main and 7th Streets, while little is changed on the narrowest streets; e.g., California, Rose, Fourth, Superba, Horizon, Andalusia and Pacific. This will prevent the development of narrow, dark, claustrophobic "alleys" without sun and air and trees.

We recommend that the draft community plan should also include open spaces and parks that will serve the community such that the ratio of population to park area at present shall be increased by at least 20%, and multi-family development in Venice would include contribution by developers to a dedicated park building and maintenance fund.