

# FREE TREEPLANTING PROGRAM

## Creation Care Ministry, Diocese of San Diego

Main contact:

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Feel free to email or text anytime, or call me any day 6AM-9PM.

### Brief Description of the Program

Bishop McElroy has requested that the Creation Care Ministry implement a treeplanting program across the Diocese of San Diego. We offer a completely free program that includes site evaluation, tree choice consultation, tree, stakes, tie bands, fertilizer and mulch. Trees and materials are batched to a common site for pickup on a monthly basis, so be patient; the whole process could take more than a month. In return for your free tree, you commit to care for it, because it is part of God's Creation that has been entrusted to you.

### How to participate

Please read the instructions below to make sure you understand and agree with the treeplanting process. These steps give you and your tree the best chance of success, and also help us avoid overloading the generous volunteers who provide consulting services, tree delivery and so much more.

1. Use the [Ecoregion map](#) below to determine your climate zone (coastal, valley or desert). If you're not comfortable with maps, you can skip this step.
2. Use the [tree catalog](#) below to choose trees that are appropriate for your climate zone. Make a first, second and third choice. If you are having trouble deciding, we can make recommendations. It's okay to request a specific tree that is not on the list.
3. Take photos of your treeplanting site. Try to take pictures from three angles facing all directions.
4. By the 15<sup>th</sup> of the month, Email [dlarom@yahoo.com](mailto:dlarom@yahoo.com) with your site photos, your three tree choices, the address of the planting site and your phone number. You can also attach a verbal description of the area and your wishes for it.
5. On a monthly basis, our tree expert will examine your information. We may not recommend your first choice if climate zone, shading, groundwater salinity, soil type or other factors make it impractical. We will contact you to make sure we agree on the choice of tree.
6. On the fourth Friday of the month, [pick up your tree](#) at 7280 Mission Gorge Road, San Diego, CA 92120 (see map below) and bring it to your planting site.
7. [Dig, water and prepare the hole](#) two days before planting, using the instructions below.
8. [Plant your tree](#) using the instructions below.
9. Please send us pictures of your planting!
10. [Continue caring for your tree](#) according to the instructions below, and congratulations! You are helping heal our wounded Sister, Mother Earth.

**If you are planting three or more trees**, or if you plan to build an event around your treeplanting, please email [dlarom@yahoo.com](mailto:dlarom@yahoo.com)

## Why plant trees?

Trees grow by pulling carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>), the main greenhouse gas, out of the atmosphere and storing it in their bodies. This makes trees priceless tools in the fight to reduce climate change. Trees also provide cooling shade, beauty and countless other benefits including edible fruits, nuts and leaves, and nectar and pollen for pollinators such as honeybees. There is a powerful social justice component if trees are planted in the areas that need them most: Trees abound in rich neighborhoods, while the “concrete jungles” bake in decaying asphalt.

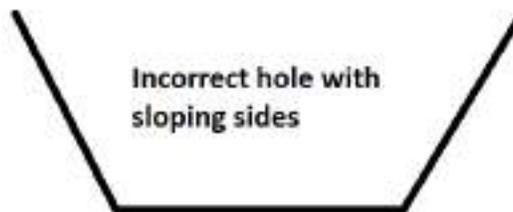
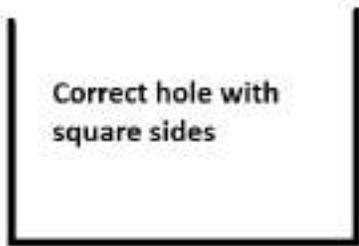
## Why plant *these* trees?

People commonly choose trees for their beauty, and sometimes for timber or food value. These are all worthy uses, but our Ministry encourages you also to help reduce global warming. We have therefore chosen trees that are relatively large, and grow fairly fast. Trees in the San Diego region should also be low-water-use and drought-tolerant. They should be resilient enough to thrive not just in San Diego’s current climate, but also in the hotter and drier climate of the future. Finally, our trees have been chosen to make life easier for owners; they have gentle roots that don’t break sidewalks, and their fruits don’t stain the ground.

## How to plant a tree

### Before your planting day

- Dig the hole 3-5 feet across (wider for poorer soil) and two feet deep. The hole should be dug square like a deep tub, not shallow like a bowl. This is the right size for the 15-gallon trees we are offering.
- Fill the hole with water. If it takes more than four hours to fill, you may have difficulty with your tree. Email us for advice.
- Wait 24 hours or more before you plant your tree.



### On your planting day

Make sure you have everything you need:

- Water supply
- A shovel and a hammer
- The tree and materials you picked up from us:
  - Your tree or trees
  - Two stakes per tree, tree ties and nails for staking the tree.
  - Soil amendments (one cup fertilizer and two bags mulch per tree)

Mix your amendments into the soil.

Sprinkle the fertilizer on top of the soil you dug out of the hole. Add the mulch/compost and mix them together with your shovel.

Plant your tree or trees.

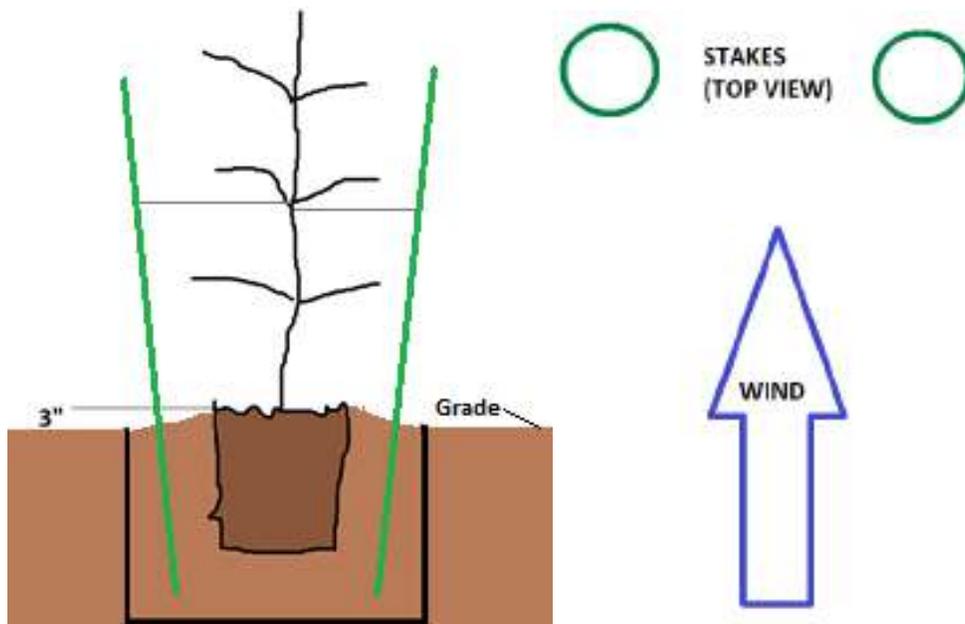
- Gently tip each tree on its side and ease it out of the planting pot.

- Break off any roots circling the outside of the root ball.
- Add enough soil mix to the bottom of the hole for the tree ball to rise about 3 inches above the level of the surrounding soil.
- Place the tree in the hole.
- Fill the hole with your soil mix. **The top of the soil in your tree ball should be about 3 inches higher than the surrounding grade, and sloping away from the rootball. This is very important. (see illustration below)**

#### Stake your tree.

- Determine your prevailing wind direction. In coastal areas this is often east-west, but can vary considerably.
- Pound your stakes perpendicular to the prevailing wind, in the filled hole on either side of the tree. This protects the tree while allowing it to sway in the wind.
- Loop the tree ties around the tree and nail them into the stakes on each side.

#### Give your tree a deep watering.



#### After your planting day

##### Share the good news!

- Let us know what you did. Send us photos, videos and permission to share them. Share your event on social media.

##### Water your tree

- If possible, set up an automated drip irrigation system. Financial aid and construction / setup assistance may be available; please contact us if you wish to request these.
- Water your tree twice a week for the first six months
- Water your tree once a week between six months and two years after you plant.
- After two years, your watering schedule depends on the type of tree:

- Native/desert trees may not need watering at all, or can be watered once a month in the dry season.
- Valley ecoregion trees can be watered once a month in the dry season.
- Coastal trees should be watered once or twice a week in the dry season depending on the heat, and as needed during the wet season.

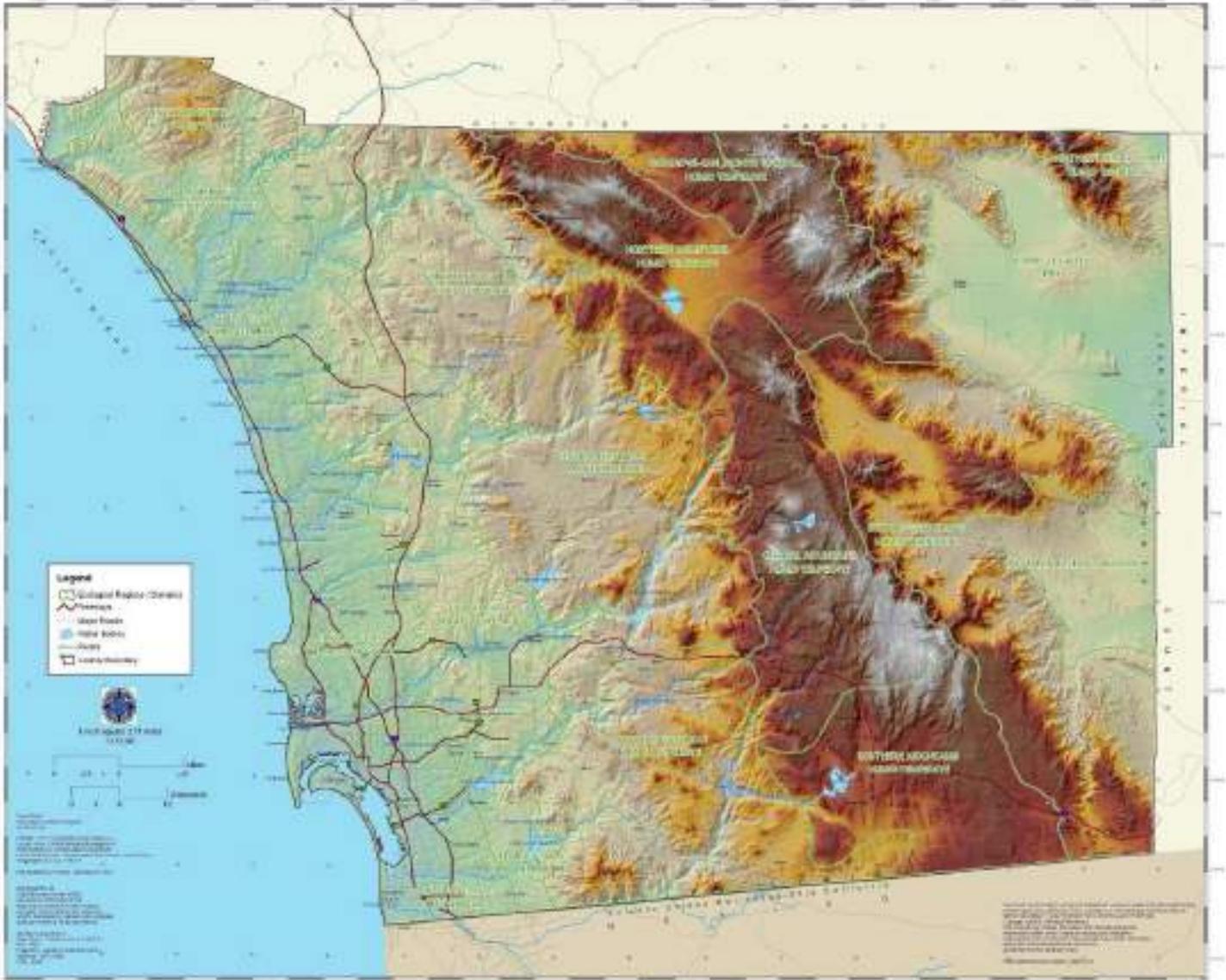
Remove the stakes after two years.

## Map of Tree Pickup Site: Frank Ramirez Pro Landscaping, 7280 Mission Gorge Rd



# San Diego Ecoregion Map

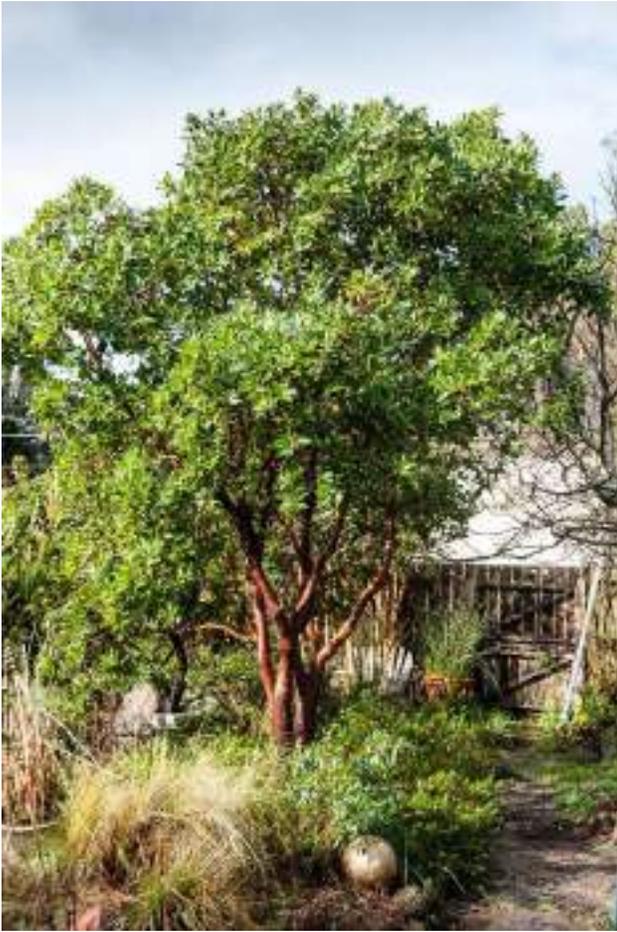
Use this map to determine if your treeplanting site belongs to the Coastal, Valley or Desert region. Regions marked Foothills can be considered Valley. If your site is in a mountainous region, the choice will be more complex; please contact us to assist you with your tree choice.



# Tree Catalog

Area of County	Genus	specific epithet	Common Name	Type	Height (ft)	Width (ft)
Coastal	<i>Arbutus</i>	'Marina'	Marina Madrone	Evergreen	40	40
Coastal	<i>Macademia</i>	<i>tetraphylla</i>	Macadamia	Evergreen	40	40
Coastal	<i>Metrosideros</i>	<i>excelsus</i>	New Zealand Christmas Tree	Evergreen	30	30
Coastal	<i>Prosopis</i>	<i>alba</i>	Thornless Mesquite	Semi-Deciduous	40	30
Coastal	<i>Quercus</i>	<i>agrifolia</i>	Coast Live Oak	Evergreen	70	70
Coastal	<i>Quercus</i>	<i>engelmannii</i>	Mesa Oak	Evergreen	40	80
Coastal	<i>Quercus</i>	<i>virginiana</i>	Southern Live Oak	Evergreen	40	80
Coastal	<i>Tipuana</i>	<i>tipu</i>	Tipu	Deciduous	40	60
Desert	<i>Cercidium</i>	'Desert Museum'	Desert Museum Palo Verde	Semi-Deciduous	20	25
Desert	<i>Chilopsis</i>	<i>linearis</i>	Desert Willow	Deciduous	20	20
Desert	<i>Chitalpa</i>	<i>tashkentensis</i>	Chitalpa	Deciduous	30	30
Desert	<i>Geijera</i>	<i>parvifolia</i>	Australian Willow	Evergreen	30	20
Desert	<i>Olea</i>	<i>europaea</i>	Olive	Evergreen	30	30
Desert	<i>Pistacia</i>	<i>lentiscus</i>	Mastic	Evergreen	25	25
Desert	<i>Prosopis</i>	<i>alba</i>	Thornless Mesquite	Semi-Deciduous	40	30
Desert	<i>Rhus</i>	<i>lancea</i>	African Sumac	Evergreen	30	35
Desert	<i>Ulmus</i>	<i>parvifolia</i>	Chinese Elm	Semi-Deciduous	40	60
Valleys	<i>Arbutus</i>	'Marina'	Marina Madrone	Evergreen	40	40
Valleys	<i>Carya</i>	<i>illinoensis</i>	Pecan	Deciduous	70	70
Valleys	<i>Cercidium</i>	'Desert Museum'	Desert Museum Palo Verde	Semi-Deciduous	20	25
Valleys	<i>Olea</i>	<i>europaea</i>	Olive	Evergreen	30	30
Valleys	<i>Pistacia</i>	<i>chinensis</i>	Chinese Pistache	Deciduous	30	40
Valleys	<i>Prosopis</i>	<i>alba</i>	Thornless Mesquite	Semi-Deciduous	40	30
Valleys	<i>Quercus</i>	<i>agrifolia</i>	Coast Live Oak	Evergreen	70	70
Valleys	<i>Quercus</i>	<i>engelmannii</i>	Mesa Oak	Evergreen	40	80
Valleys	<i>Quercus</i>	<i>virginiana</i>	Southern Live Oak	Evergreen	40	80
Valleys	<i>Ulmus</i>	<i>parvifolia</i>	Chinese Elm	Semi-Deciduous	40	60

*Arbutus 'Marina'* (Marina madrone)



*Cercidium 'Desert Museum'* (Desert Museum Palo Verde)



*Chilopsis linearis* (Desert Willow)



*Carya illinoensis* (Pecan)



*Chitalpa tashkentensis* (Chitalpa)



*Macadamia tetraphylla* (Macadamia)



*Metrosideros excelsus* (New Zealand Christmas Tree)



*Geijera parvifolia* (Australian Willow)



*Olea europaea* (Olive)



*Pistacia chinensis* (Chinese Pistache)



*Pistacia lentiscus* (Mastic)



*Prosopis alba* (thornless mesquite)



*Quercus agrifolia* (Coast Live Oak)



*Quercus engelmannii* (Mesa Oak)



*Rhus lancea* (African Sumac)



*Tipuana tipu* (Tipu)



*Ulmus parvifolia* (Chinese Elm)



## Resources for Treeplanting Work in the Greater Community

Our current focus is on getting Catholics to plant trees, but we wish in the future to cooperate with these and other organizations to plant trees in the greater community. If you feel called to work in this direction, here are some resources, and please keep us apprised of your efforts!

County of San Diego

<https://www.sandiegocounty.gov/content/sdc/sustainability/news/CountyTreePlanting.html>

“By 2050, the County aims to plant 110,000 trees throughout the unincorporated county!” This might be a great place to pipe kids and young adults into.

“For more information about volunteering with County Parks, contact Cheryl Wegner at 858-966-1335 or [cheryl.wegner@sdcounty.ca.gov](mailto:cheryl.wegner@sdcounty.ca.gov).”

City of San Diego

<https://www.sandiego.gov/trees/overview>

[Five Year Community Forestry Program](#)

Community Forestry Advisory Board

San Diego Parks Foundation

[City-Wide Tree Planting Program](#)

“SDPF wants to add 327 trees to nine parks in the City, with the primary goal to ensure a safe, inviting, and sustainable urban forest within these parks and align with the City’s Climate Action Plan... All of the nine parks are located in communities where a high percentage of citizens are considered low income.”

[Info@SanDiegoParksFoundation.org](mailto:Info@SanDiegoParksFoundation.org)

[Volunteer Application](#)