Public Works Strategic Plan:

Goal 1: Ensure Safe, Clean, and Green Infrastructure and Public Rights of Way
StreetTreeSF
Tree Pruning Schedule

StreetTreeSF went into effect July 1, 2017. Since then, we have begun tree maintenance work throughout the City, starting with the worst trees first. We ask for your patience as we work diligently to attend to the City’s 125,000 street trees.

The below StreetTreeSF pruning map is a guide to when and where current work is happening and what work is planned over the next several years. Enter your full address to find out when trees in your neighborhood will receive a visit from a StreetTreeSF crew.

Where we are this week schedule (coming soon!)

Schedules are estimates and planned work and are subject to change for numerous reasons. Please check back.
Challenges with ficus trees

*Ficus micropcarpa ‘Nitida’*

- Once popular street tree (green & so healthy looking!)
- Initial issues were sidewalk damage/tree roots
- Removed from planting list in mid 1990s
- Increasing amount of large stem failures
- Public safety concerns:
  Blocked roads, property damage, injuries
Director’s Order No. 183151
Tree Removal Criteria for Ficus

• Acknowledges the benefits and value of ficus trees
• Outlines in detail the structural defects that are leading to the large stem failures
• Primary issue: codominant stems with narrow angles of attachment, with or without included bark
Ficus Trees

Services

- Report a Problem
- Cleaning Programs
- Contractor Resources
- Garbage & Waste
- Graffiti
- Permits
- Potholes
- Public Records Request
- Public Toilets
- Recycling & Refuse Collection
- Storm Preparation
- Street Sweeping
- Sidewalks
- Street Resurfacing
- Street Trees and Plants
- StreetTreeSF
- Greening Projects
- Permits - Street Trees and Plants
- Plant Lists and Palettes
- Street Tree Listings
- Urban Forest Plan

Ficus trees are a common street tree in San Francisco. They are known for their impressive canopy and for decades have served as a showcase species along such streets at Hyde, Lombard and Potrero. However, there are
DPW Order No: 183151

Tree removal criteria for ficus trees (Ficus microcarpa 'Nitida').

Article 16 of the Public Works Code governs trees and landscaping in the public right of way. The residents of San Francisco value street trees, and have mandated their protection. Article 16 of the Public Works Code, adopted as the Urban Forestry Ordinance of 1995, was created to:

(a) Realize the optimum public benefits of trees on the City's streets and public places, including favorable modification of microclimates, abatement of air and noise pollution, reduction of soil erosion and runoff, enhancement of the visual environment, and promotion of community pride.

(g) Recognize that trees are an essential part of the City's aesthetic environment and that the removal of important trees should be addressed through appropriate public participation and dialogue, including the California Environmental Quality Act (Public Resources Code Sections 21000 et seq.).

(h) Recognize that green spaces are vital to San Francisco's quality of life, as they provide a range of environmental benefits and bring beauty to our residential neighborhoods and commercial districts.

However, it also was designed to:

(d) Reduce the public hazard, nuisance, and expense occasioned by improper tree selection, planting, and maintenance.

The tree structure of many of these ficus trees includes large, competing trunks with acute angles of attachment. Due to recent large limb and tree failures of ficus trees, causing property damage, injury and concerns for public safety, the Director of Public Works has established new guidelines for the staff evaluation and determination of whether to approve removal of this particular species of tree on a case-by-case basis.

There is no one-size fits all approach and each tree must be evaluated by a qualified arborist. Ficus trees that are candidates for removal may only exhibit one of the defects described below, or, multiple defects may be present.
Significant Tree
Ficus tree safety concerns top Hayes Valley meeting agenda
But the program faces a major challenge in the city’s aging population of *ficus trees*, whose structural flaws make them prone to dropping branches or toppling over entirely. The large ficus tree that fell across Hayes Street on December 27 damaged a delivery truck, and snarled traffic for hours.

The fallen ficus tree on Hayes Street on December 27 damaged a truck and snarled traffic for six hours. | IMAGE: SF FIRE DEPARTMENT PUBLIC INFORMATION OFFICE/TWITTER

In 2014, SF Public Works adopted guidance that eases removal of ficus trees due to structural concerns,
Reached out to community to explain our findings

- Identified 39 street trees, mostly ficus, in the immediate area
- Staff attended HVNA meetings and offered to walk and look at the trees together to point out our concerns, tree by tree
Community sentiment & feedback was very strong

- We were asked repeatedly to return to see if any trees could be phased or pruned more aggressively

- Review of 28 trees still proposed for removal

- Review of 11 now proposed to be retained, but with “experimental” aggressive pruning
Significant
Tree

City and County of San Francisco

London N. Breed, Mayor
Mohammed Nuru, Director

Public Works Order No: 200996

The Director of Public Works will hold a public hearing on Monday, April 29, 2019,
commencing at 5:30 p.m. in Room 416 of City Hall, located at 1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett
Place, San Francisco, to consider the following:

Removal of thirty-nine (39) street trees (Ficus) with replacement (unless otherwise
noted) adjacent to the locations listed below.

Staff has approved the removals and the public has protested

The following locations on Octavia Street:
508 Octavia: 6 ficas; 534 Octavia: 2 ficas; 550-560 Octavia: 5 ficas; 600 Octavia: 3 ficas;
630 Octavia: 1 fica; 636 Octavia: 1 fica; 666 Octavia: 2 ficas; “601” Octavia: 2 ficas;
523 Octavia: 1 fica; 515 Octavia: 1 fica; 501 Octavia: 1 poplar tree;

The following locations on Hayes Street:
412 Hayes: 3 ficas (not replantable – bus zone); 430 Hayes: 1 fica; 520 Hayes: 3 ficas
(only middle tree replantable – multiple conflicts); 568 Hayes: 1 fica;

The following locations on Grove Street:
“499” Grove: 2 ficas; 501 Grove: 1 fica; 530 Grove: 1 fica;

The following locations on Ivy Street:
380 Ivy: 1 fica (not replantable); 426 Ivy: 1 fica (not replantable);

Interested parties are encouraged to attend. Persons unable to attend the public hearing may submit
written comments regarding the subject matter to the Bureau of Urban Forestry, 1689 Mission Street, 1st
floor, San Francisco, CA 94103. These comments will be brought to the attention of the hearing officer
and made a part of the official public record.

Further information, if desired, on this matter may be obtained prior to the hearing by phoning the
Bureau of Urban Forestry at (415) 554-4600.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Address/location</th>
<th>Tree #/site</th>
<th>Revised recommendation</th>
<th>Comments</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>412 Hayes St.</td>
<td>Tree 1</td>
<td>Retain tree/prune</td>
<td>These 3 trees are adjacent to a bus zone; not replantable due to SFMTA requirements.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Tree 2</td>
<td>Retain tree/prune</td>
<td>Retain these three trees this cycle. Prune heavily to reduce failure potential.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>412 Hayes St.</td>
<td>Tree 3</td>
<td>Retain tree/prune</td>
<td>Retain these three trees this cycle. Prune heavily to reduce failure potential.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Octavia (Hayes to Ivy) East Side</td>
<td>Tree 1</td>
<td>Retain/prune</td>
<td>At corner of cross walk. Heavy pruning req'd; remove entire stem toward intersect.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>508 Octavia</td>
<td>Tree 2</td>
<td>Retain/prune</td>
<td>Smaller tree, very poor structure. Remove large stem that is low, over road.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>508 Octavia</td>
<td>Tree 3</td>
<td>Remove tree/replace</td>
<td>Most of the structure leans over rd; removing these stems removes most of tree.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>508 Octavia</td>
<td>Tree 5</td>
<td>Remove/replace</td>
<td>Smaller tree but terrible structure. Remove and replace.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>508 Octavia</td>
<td>Tree 6</td>
<td>Remove/replace</td>
<td>Terrible structure</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Octavia (Ivy to Grove) East Side</td>
<td>Tree 1</td>
<td>Remove/replace</td>
<td>Very large trunk, very poor structure, extreme bark inclusion &amp; lean over road.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>534 Octavia</td>
<td>Tree 2</td>
<td>Remove/replace</td>
<td>Smaller tree but tree has been topped; terrible structure, nothing to work with.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>550-550 Octavia</td>
<td>Tree 1</td>
<td>Remove/replace</td>
<td>Terrible structure, leaning towards road, nothing to work with.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>550-550 Octavia</td>
<td>Tree 2</td>
<td>Retain/prune</td>
<td>Smaller tree. Wasn't topped previously. We will need to prune it heavily.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>550-550 Octavia</td>
<td>Tree 3</td>
<td>Remove/replace</td>
<td>Leans over road. Very poor structure.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>550-550 Octavia</td>
<td>Tree 5</td>
<td>Retain/prune</td>
<td>At Stop Sign. Not replantable. Remove several large stems/laterals &amp; overall reduction.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>600 Octavia (Grove to Fulton) 600 Octavia</td>
<td>Tree 1</td>
<td>Remove/replace</td>
<td>Very large trunk, very poor structure, sidewalk damage, lean over road.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>600 Octavia</td>
<td>Tree 2</td>
<td>Remove/replace</td>
<td>Lean over road, very poor structure. Remove tree</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>600 Octavia</td>
<td>Tree 3</td>
<td>Retain/prune</td>
<td>Entire large lateral branch on south side needs to be removed. Balance, heavy prune.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>630 Octavia</td>
<td>Tree 1/1</td>
<td>Retain/prune</td>
<td>Relatively upright stems. Poor structure. Prune, monitor.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
28 trees still proposed for removal
508 Octavia
Tree no. 3
508 Octavia
Tree no. 5
508 Octavia
Tree no. 6
534 Octavia
550-560 Octavia
534 Octavia
Tree no. 1
534 Octavia
Tree no. 2
555-560
Octavia

Tree no. 1
555-560
Octavia

Tree no. 3
600 Octavia

Tree no. 1
600 Octavia

Tree no. 2
636 Octavia
666 Octavia
601 Octavia

Tree no. 1
601 Octavia

Tree no. 2
515 Octavia
523 Octavia
501 Octavia

Lombardy poplar
430 Hayes
520 Hayes
3 ficus
Ficus
no. 1
Ficus no. 2
Ficus no. 3
499 Grove

Tree 1
499 Grove

Tree 2
530 Grove
426 Ivy
11 trees to be retained
Experimental pruning
508 Octavia
Tree no. 2
508 Octavia
Tree no. 4
555-560
Octavia

Tree no. 2
555-560
Octavia
Tree no. 4
555-560
Octavia

Tree no. 5
600 Octavia

Tree no. 3
630 Octavia
412 Hayes

No Replacement Due to bus zone
412 Hayes

Tree no. 1
412
Hayes

Tree no. 2
412 Hayes

Tree no. 3
We are working with Friends of the Urban Forest to plant 40 empty tree basins in the immediate area.

We are in discussion re: replacement species with HVNA.

Committing to three-month turn around time from removal to replacement tree.

Includes: stump removal, sidewalk repair, shifting tree basins/cutting basins, purchasing/planting.