

RESOLUTION NO. R01-20

**A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF
THE CITY OF PALOS VERDES ESTATES, CALIFORNIA,
APPROVING REVISIONS TO THE ADOPTED TREE MANAGEMENT POLICY
AS RECOMMENDED BY THE PARKLANDS COMMITTEE**

WHEREAS, at the request of the Parklands Committee and in light of the development of the Designated Street Tree List 2000; and

WHEREAS, the purpose of the adopted and this revised policy is to create an orderly procedure by which residents may request approval to trim or remove view-encroaching vegetation located on public property, including right of way, median strips, and parklands; and

WHEREAS, this revised policy shall guide the staff, Parklands Committee, and City Council in making decisions on residents' request to trim or remove view-encroaching vegetation when views are unreasonably impaired;

NOW THEREFORE, the City Council of the City of Palos Verdes Estates DOES RESOLVE AS FOLLOWS:

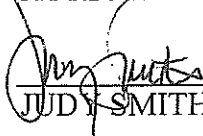
Section 1. The City Council hereby adopts a revised Tree Management Policy attached hereto as Exhibit 1 and herein incorporated by reference, as the official City policy relating to the process and procedures for approval of resident request to trim or remove public property view-encroaching vegetation.

Section 2. Resolution R99-59 is hereby rescinded.

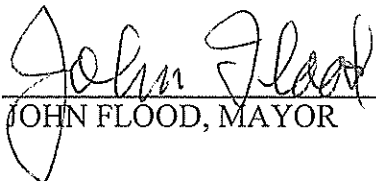
Section 3. The City Clerk shall certify to the passage and adoption of Resolution R01-20

PASSED, APPROVED AND ADOPTED this 10th day of April, 2001.

ATTEST:



JUDY SMITH, CITY CLERK



JOHN FLOOD, MAYOR

APPROVED AS TO FORM:



Stephanie R. Scher, CITY ATTORNEY

STATE OF CALIFORNIA)
COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES) SS:
CITY OF PALOS VERDES ESTATES)

I, Robin Ford, Deputy City Clerk for the City of Palos Verdes Estate, California, do hereby certify that the foregoing Resolution R01-20 was duly and regularly approved and adopted by the City Council of the City of Palos Verdes Estates at its regular meeting of the City Council on the 10th day of April, 2001, by the following vote:

AYES: COUNCILMEMBERS: Turner, Humphrey, Flood, Mackenbach,
Sherwood

NOES: COUNCILMEMBERS:

ABSENT: COUNCILMEMBERS:



Robin M. Ford, Deputy City Clerk

CITY OF PALOS VERDES ESTATES
TREE MANAGEMENT POLICY

1. **GOALS.** The goal of the Tree Management Policy is to create an orderly procedure by which residents can petition for approval to trim or remove view-encroaching vegetation when views are, or are becoming, unreasonable impaired by trees or other vegetation growing on public property, either street right-of-way or parkland.

2. **OBJECTIVES.**
 - a. Natural Amenities. It is recognized that the abundance of mature trees and beautiful views is a central factor in creating the unique character of Palos Verdes Estates and contributes to the high property values and attractiveness of the living environment. The utilization of the various tree-trimming techniques (including crown restructuring, crown reduction, and topping) as well as removal/replacement must seek to strike a reasonable balance between the protection and enhancement of mature trees, the protection of privacy, and the preservation of views for each property owner.

 - b. Neighborhood Character. Tree-trimming proposals (including crown restructuring, crown reduction, and topping) as well as removal/replacement shall respect the existing neighborhood character and shall not result in significantly altering the unique feeling of the particular neighborhood.

 - c. Privacy. Tree-trimming proposals (including crown restructuring, crown reduction, and topping) as well as removal/replacement shall respect the privacy of neighbors by maintaining to the greatest extent practicable adequate screening of the structure from the sight of its neighbors.

 - d. Views. Tree-trimming proposals (including crown restructuring, crown reduction, and topping) as well as removal/replacement shall consider to the extent reasonable practicable the preservation or enhancement of view corridors of the ocean or City lights (where applicable).

3. **ALTERNATIVES FOR VIEW ENHANCEMENT.** There are three basic tree-trimming techniques by which view obstruction by trees may be reduced. If none of these sufficient, removal may be considered.
 - a. Crown Restructuring. A tree trimming technique designed to allow the tree to eventually reach its mature size, growing up and out of the view corridor, and to allow views through the tree while it is reaching maturity. It involves lacing the tree and removing selected limbs to open up views. The sequence of trimming and examples of Crown Restructuring are given in Attachment A.

- b. Crown Reduction. A tree trimming technique designed to reduce the overall size and shape of the crown by removing specific branches at their point of attachment, and shortening others to a lateral large enough to assume the terminal role. Because this technique prevents the tree from reaching its natural height, it requires more on-going maintenance for the life of the tree. Attachment B explains the techniques and gives examples.
 - c. Topping. A tree trimming technique which may be used in very limited instances results in removal of portions of major limbs to reduce the height of the tree. This technique, as with "Crown Reduction," prevents the tree from reaching its natural height, and requires more on-going maintenance for the life of the tree. Because of the extreme stress "Topping" places on a tree, additional care and irrigation may be required to assure continued survival and growth. Attachment C explains the technique and gives examples.
 - d. Removal and Replacement. Removal of a tree shall be considered when none of the 3 pruning techniques noted above is appropriate. The applicant will be required to replace the tree with one which, at maturity, would not significantly obstruct a view; or, in lieu of actual replacement, the applicant will be required to pay a sum of money sufficient to purchase a replacement tree shall usually be a 24" box size.
4. **PERMIT PROCEDURE**. An "Application to Prune or Remove City Trees for View Restoration or Enhancement" shall be obtained from and filed with the City.
- a. Notification. For tree-removal applications, notifications of receipt of an "Application to Prune or Remove City Trees for View Restoration or Enhancement" shall be mailed to the owners of properties immediately adjacent to the subject tree or trees and the owners of properties across the street from the above mentioned properties. The notices shall specify the time and date of the Parklands Committee meeting at which the application will be considered.
 - b. View Analysis. For tree-removal applications, a view analysis shall be performed by the City. If the removal is deemed to have an effect on property owners other than those scheduled for notification above, the additional property owners shall be notified of the time and date of the Parklands Committee meeting at which the applications will be considered.
5. **PROCESS FOR CONSIDERATION AND APPROVAL**. Each application for removal and replacement shall be reviewed by the Parklands Committee. The Committee shall consider the view analysis and recommendations, and the testimony, both verbal and written, of the applicant and of affected property owners. The recommendation of the Parklands Committee shall be placed on the Consent Agenda of the City Council.

Each application for crown restructuring, crown reduction, or topping shall be reviewed by staff. If staff believes the pruning will not unduly endanger the health or aesthetics of the tree, staff will issue a permit to prune the tree. The permit will allow the applicant to utilize one of the tree trimming firms that have been authorized by staff to trim public trees. If the application is denied, the applicant can appeal staff's decision to the Parklands Committee.

6. **PERMIT FEES.** A fee shall be submitted with the application in the amount that shall be established by resolution of the City Council.
7. **CONTRACTOR SELECTION BY CITY.** All work of pruning or removal and replacement shall be done under the supervision by a tree trimming contractor that has been authorized by the City.
8. **COST OF PRUNING OR REMOVAL.** All costs of pruning or removal and replacement for view enhancement shall be paid by the applicant.

ATTACHMENT A

Crown Restructuring:

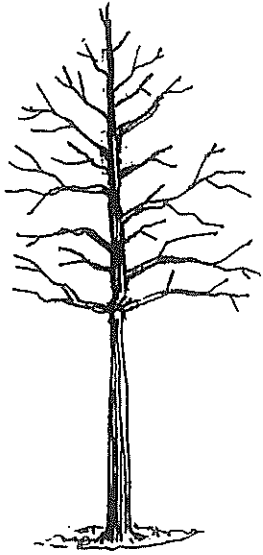
This technique is designed to allow the tree to eventually reach a mature size, yet still allow views through the tree.

The tree's structure is studied by the arborist and other interested parties to determine which limbs could be removed to attain optimum view corridors. The tree is pruned, and the selected limbs are removed to open up the views.

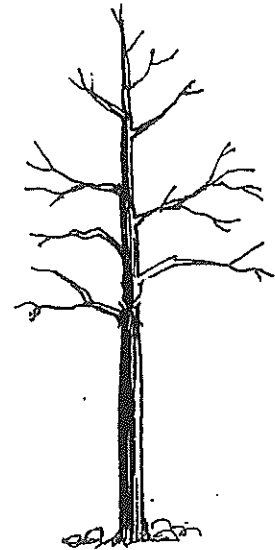
The objective of this procedure is to cultivate the tree and allow the canopy to eventually grow up and out of the view corridor.

The following page show examples of Crown Restructuring:

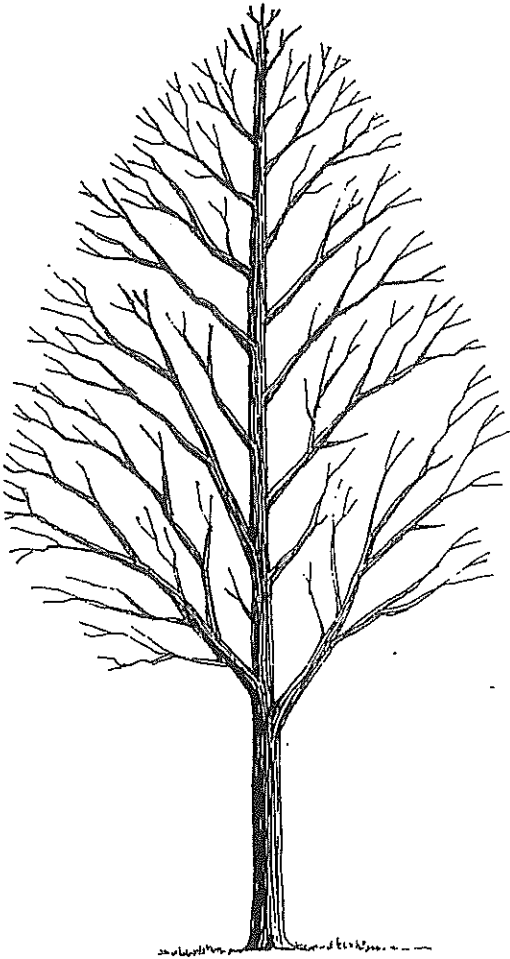
CROWN RESTRUCTURING



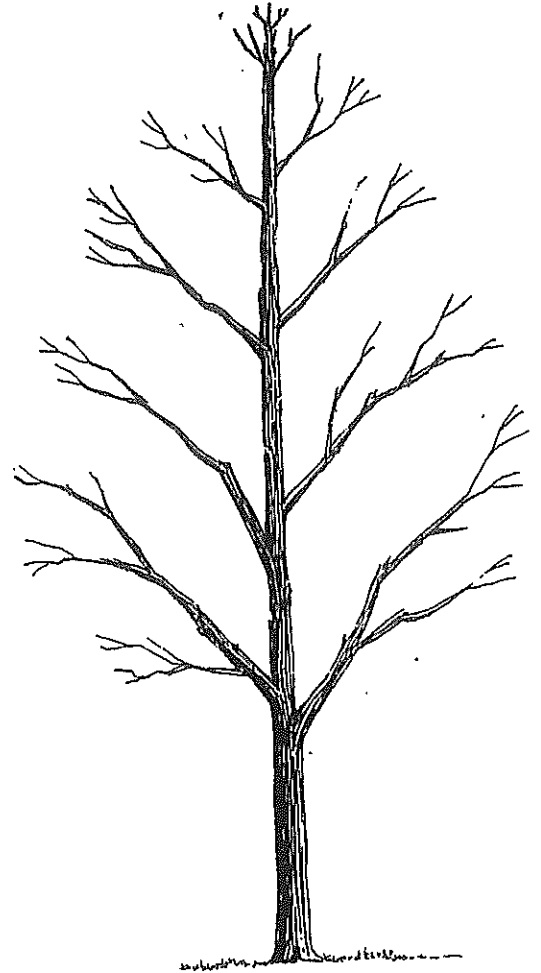
BEFORE



AFTER



BEFORE



AFTER

ATTACHMENT B

Crown Reduction:

The overall size and shape of the crown is reduced by removing specific branches at their point of attachment and shortening them to a lateral large enough to assume the terminal role.

This technique is designed to reduce the tree's height. It will evenly distribute the new leaf growth throughout the tree; yet still retain the tree's natural shape.

The crown should not have more than one-third of the live foliage removed. At least one-half of the remaining foliage should be on branches that arise in the lower two-thirds of the tree. All dead, dying, diseased, crowded, weakly attached, low-vigor branches and watersprouts would also be removed.

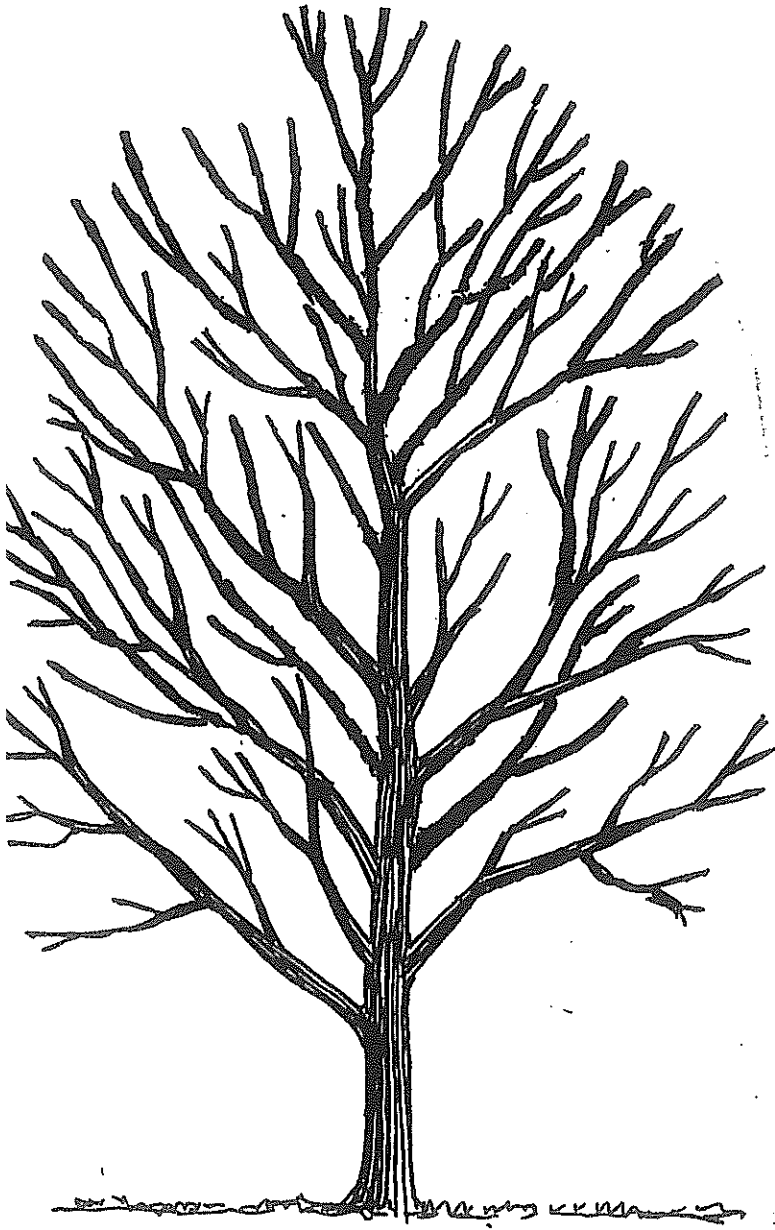
In the case of crown reduction, one is attempting to maintain a tree at a height which may be inconsistent with the tree's natural tendency to reach its mature height. In these cases, it is important that a commitment be made to maintain the tree at that height for the life of the tree.

Crown reduction does not mean "topping", which should rarely be done because vigorous, weakly attached upright sprouts are force just below such cuts, and the tree's natural form is altered. In some situations, branch stubs die or produce only water sprouts called epicormic shoots. These are vigorous upright shoots which grow from the point where a heading cut had been made. These shoots can be a problem because they are seldom firmly attached to the trunk or branch from which they arise. The natural layering process that creates the secure bond between branch and trunk is not present in the epicormic shoots. Only the new layers of the bark and wood that have formed since the cut had been made unite it with the tree. Should these shoots be allowed to grow for a number of years, they are not only weakly attached, but they become top heavy and may break off in high winds. The crown of the tree can be restored over a period of time and should be pruned judiciously every year to reduce potential liability exposure.

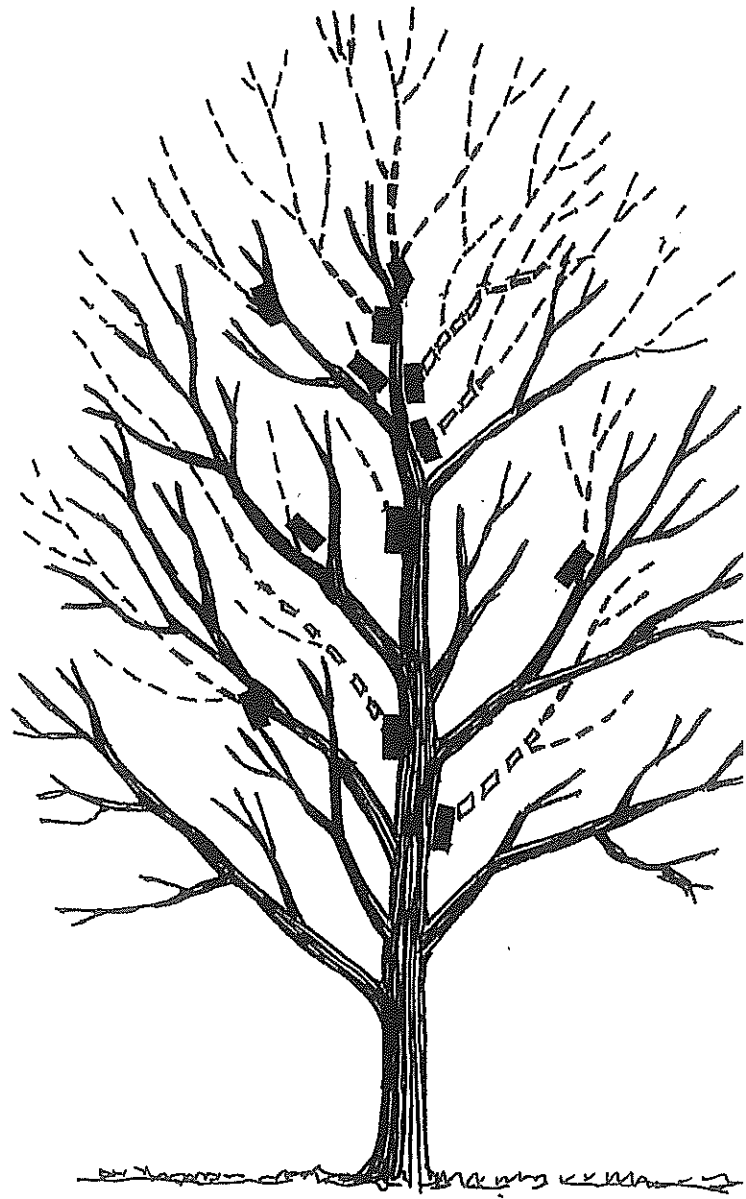
Large branch stubs left from topping seldom close or callus. Nutrients are no longer transported to the large stubs and that part of the tree becomes unable to seal off the injury. This leaves stubs vulnerable to insect invasion and fungal decay. Once decay has begun in a branch stub, it may spread to the main trunk, thus affecting the integrity of the tree trunk.

The following page show examples of Crown Reduction:

ATTACHMENT B
CROWN REDUCTION



BEFORE



AFTER

ATTACHMENT C

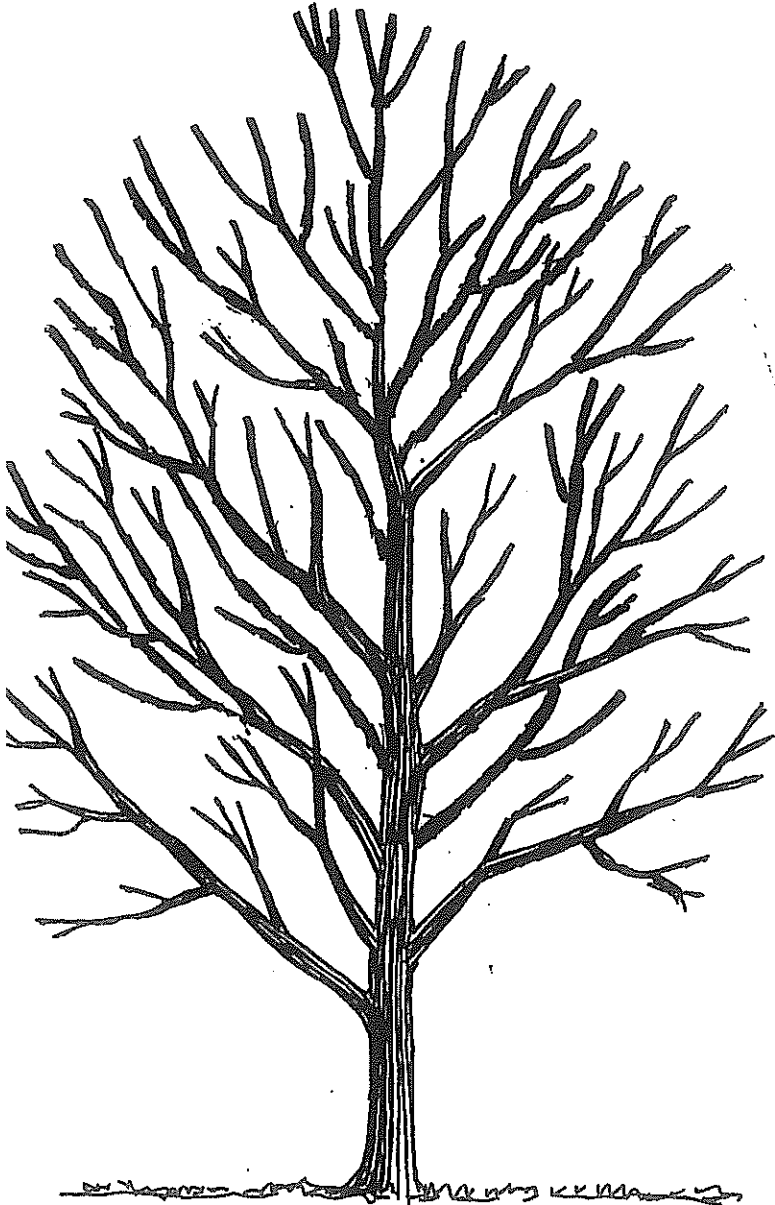
Topping:

This technique is designed to reduce the tree's height by removing portions of major limbs. The tree's natural form is altered, which may cause branch stubs to die or produce epicormic shoots, weak sprouts resulting from improper branch cutting. This technique is not recommended and, if necessary, should be used in very limited instances. Topping also creates an ongoing commitment to maintain the tree height so as to not become dangerous with weakly attached branches that are more subject to failure as they increase in weight and length.

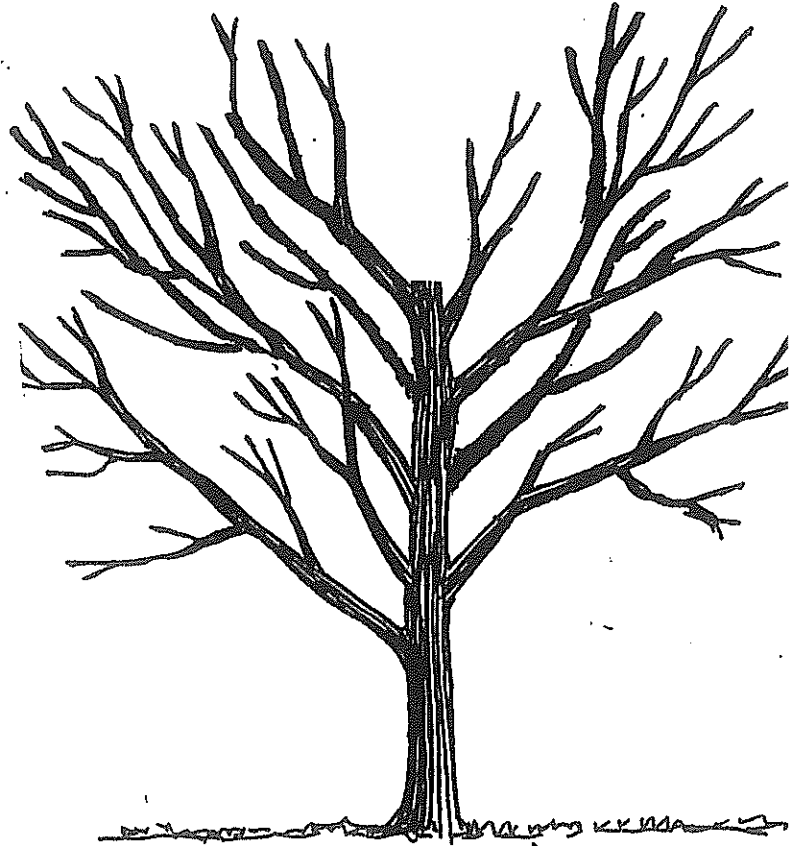
The following page show examples of Topping:

ATTACHMENT C

TOPPING



BEFORE



AFTER

ATTACHMENT D

Removal and/or Replacement:

The Parklands Committee may recommend to the City Council that a tree on public property be removed. The Committee will recommend whether or not the tree should be replaced. When a tree is to be replaced, the designated street tree is preferred, unless the Committee recommends an alternate tree.

Where no species has been designated, or where the Committee recommends an alternative, the replacement tree should be selected from the approved street tree list.

The Parklands Committee may recommend to the City Council that a tree on public property be removed and not be replaced in the proximity of the removed tree.

ATTACHMENT D-1

There shall be no planting of *Pinus canariensis* (Canary Island Pine), *Pinus halepensis* (Aleppo Pine), *Pinus pinea* (Italian Stone Pine), or *Pinus radiata* (Monterey Pine) as new or replacement trees on City owned property.