

# Community Forest Planning: Lessons Learned



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# The Vision: What We Plan For

- Healthy urban forest ecosystems
- Stable and cohesive forest canopy
- A safe, attractive environment
- Trees creating sense of place
- Maximize net benefits
- Coordinated and efficient management
- Ample funding
- Public recognition



# The Reality: What We Settle For

- Little public awareness of benefits
- Fragmented responsibilities
- Inadequate budgets
- Continued “downsizing” of street trees
- Removal rates exceeding planting rates
- Escalating costs and foregone benefits



# Common Elements in Urban Forest Management Plans

- Mission/Vision
- Environment & History
- Vegetation Resource
- Design Goals
- Planting Goals
- Plant Palette
- Management Goals
- Maintenance Goals and Standards



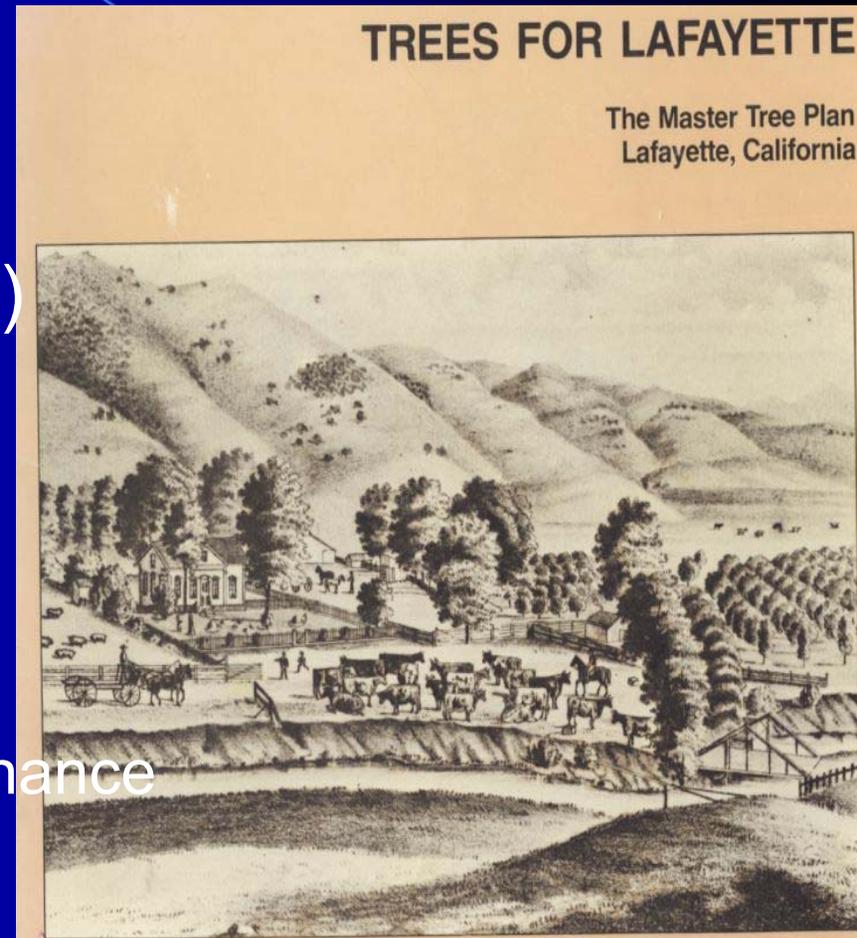
# Into the Black Hole: Life History of Four California Urban Forest Plans

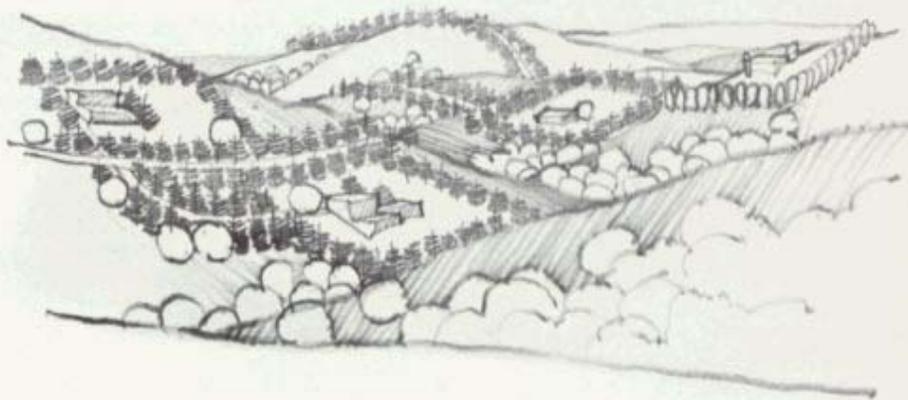
- What Worked and Why?
- What Failed and Why?
- Lessons Learned for Making Strong, Implementable Plans
- Plans for:
  - Lafayette
  - Oakland
  - Santa Cruz
  - San Francisco



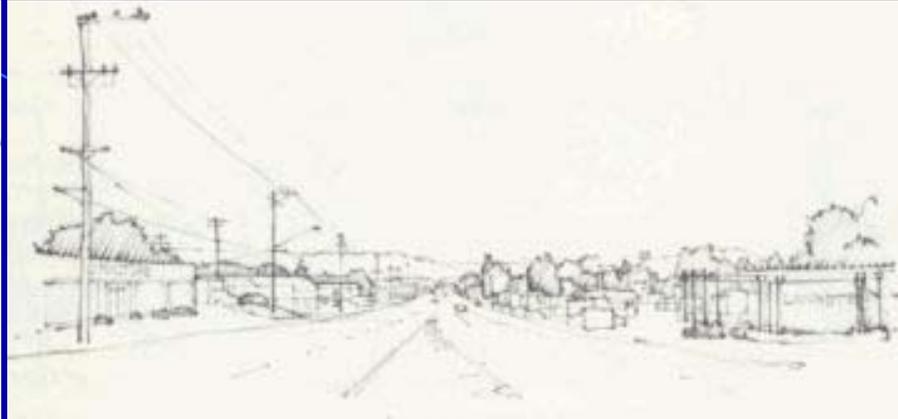
# Trees for Lafayette

- 1975 by Russ Beatty
- Response to Rapid Growth
- Educational (non-regulatory)
- Broad Citywide Vision
  - History
  - Streetscape Guidelines
  - Prominent Tree Groves
  - Planting/Preservation/Maintenance
  - Tree Selection Guide

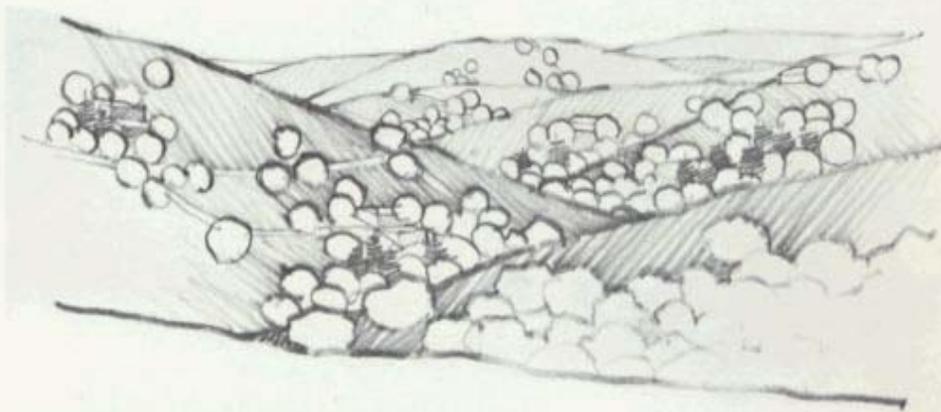




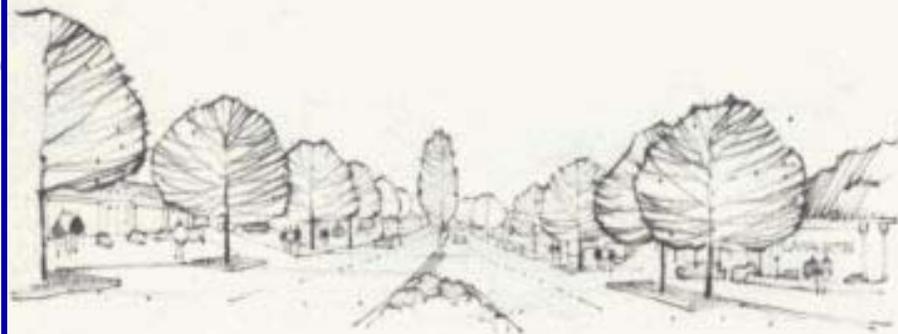
*Boundary and road edge tree planting conflicts with topography and native vegetation.*



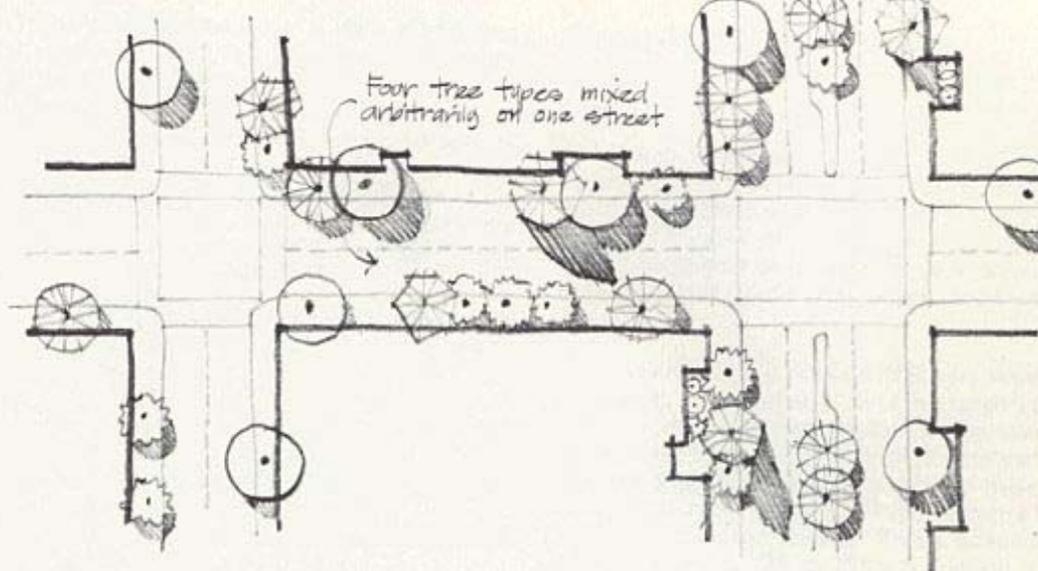
*Mt. Diablo Boulevard looking west—1975.*



*Random planting of rounded tree forms arranged in groupings sympathetic to both topography and native tree masses.*

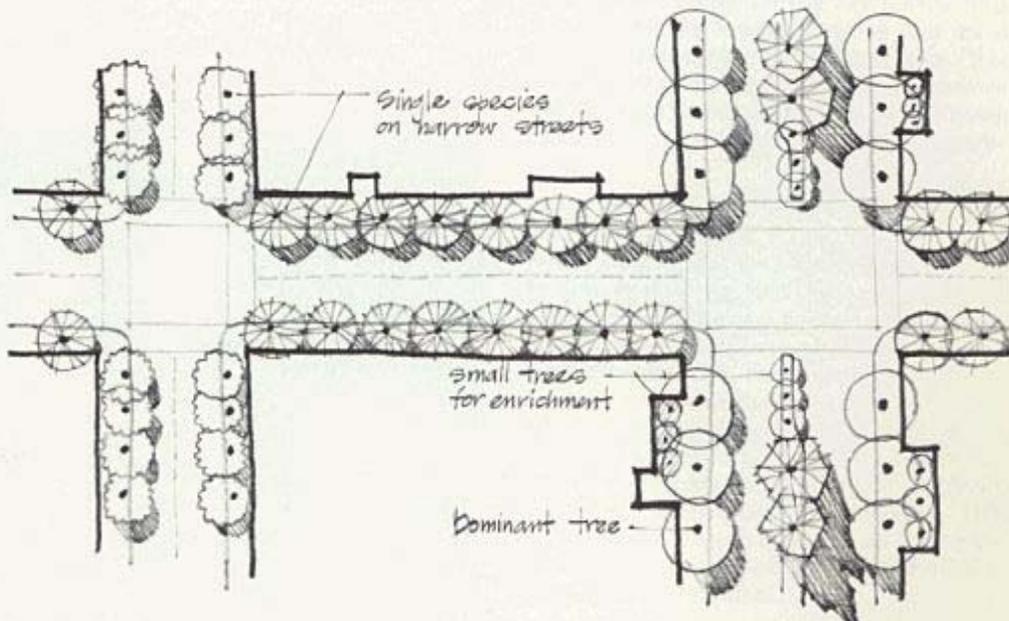


*Mt. Diablo Boulevard concept planting scheme.*



Excessive, unplanned variety along commercial streets.

Trees used without purpose or function

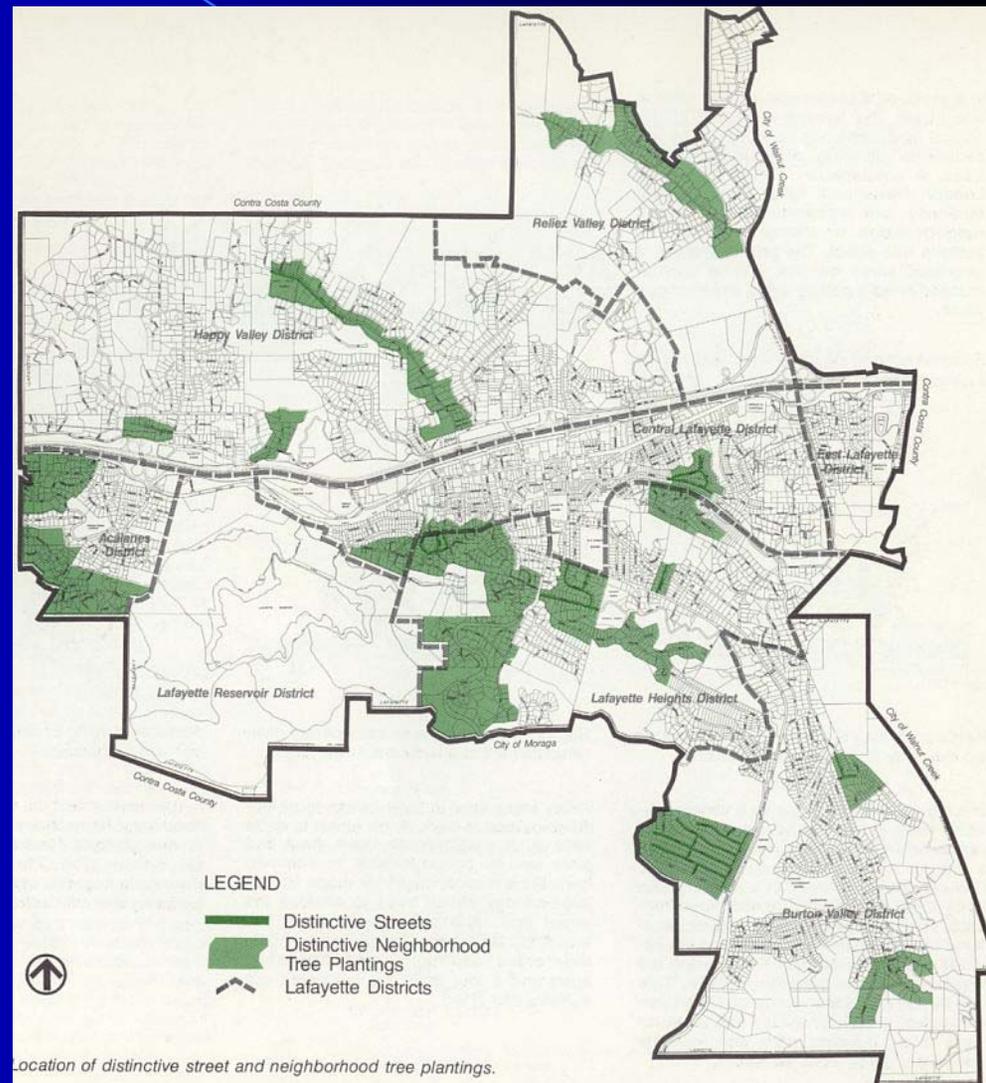


Variety within a unified planting scheme along commercial streets.

Multitude tree selection on wide streets

# Implementation Results

- Success: Streamside Restoration
  - Clear goal, plan review process worked
- Failures:
  - Heritage tree program
  - Education program
  - EBMUD planting



# Oakland Greenstreets

- 1982 by Urban Trees Design Group
- \$450,000 CDBG funding
- Rebellion Against 1948 Plan
- Planting Contracted to Non-Profit
- Reference Document for Tree Selection/Care
  - Environmental data
  - Administrative procedures
  - Tree planting instructions
  - Trees for major streets
  - Trees for neighborhoods
  - Management and maintenance



# BANCROFT AVENUE

## From High Street to 68th Avenue

## From 68th Avenue to San Leandro border

### DESCRIPTION

Predominantly commercial  
Narrow street with close, continuous frontages  
Narrow sidewalks  
Heavy bus traffic  
Little room for street tree planting

Commercial and residential mix  
Wide median strip of heavily compacted soil  
(formerly a railroad track)  
Median strip sparsely planted

### EXISTING TREES

Median Strip:  
Deodar Cedar  
*Platanus acerifolia* 'Bloodgood'  
London Plane Tree  
Camphor

### CONSIDERATIONS

Needs tall and narrow tree suited to limited space

Planting design seeks to enhance park-like feeling  
of open space in median strip and make use of  
existing plantings

### TREE RECOMMENDATIONS

#### DOMINANT

*Eucalyptus nicholii*  
Nichol's Willow-Leafed Peppermint

*Platanus acerifolia* 'Bloodgood'  
London Plane Tree

#### SUBDOMINANT

*Pinus pinea*  
Italian Stone Pine  
*Quercus agrifolia*  
Coast Live Oak

#### ACCENT

*Eucalyptus ficifolia*  
Scarlet-Flowering Gum

*Prunus semulata* 'Kwanzan'  
Doublepink Flowering Cherry  
*Prunus yedoensis* 'Akebono'  
Akebono Flowering Cherry

#### SPACING

30' - 45' maximum

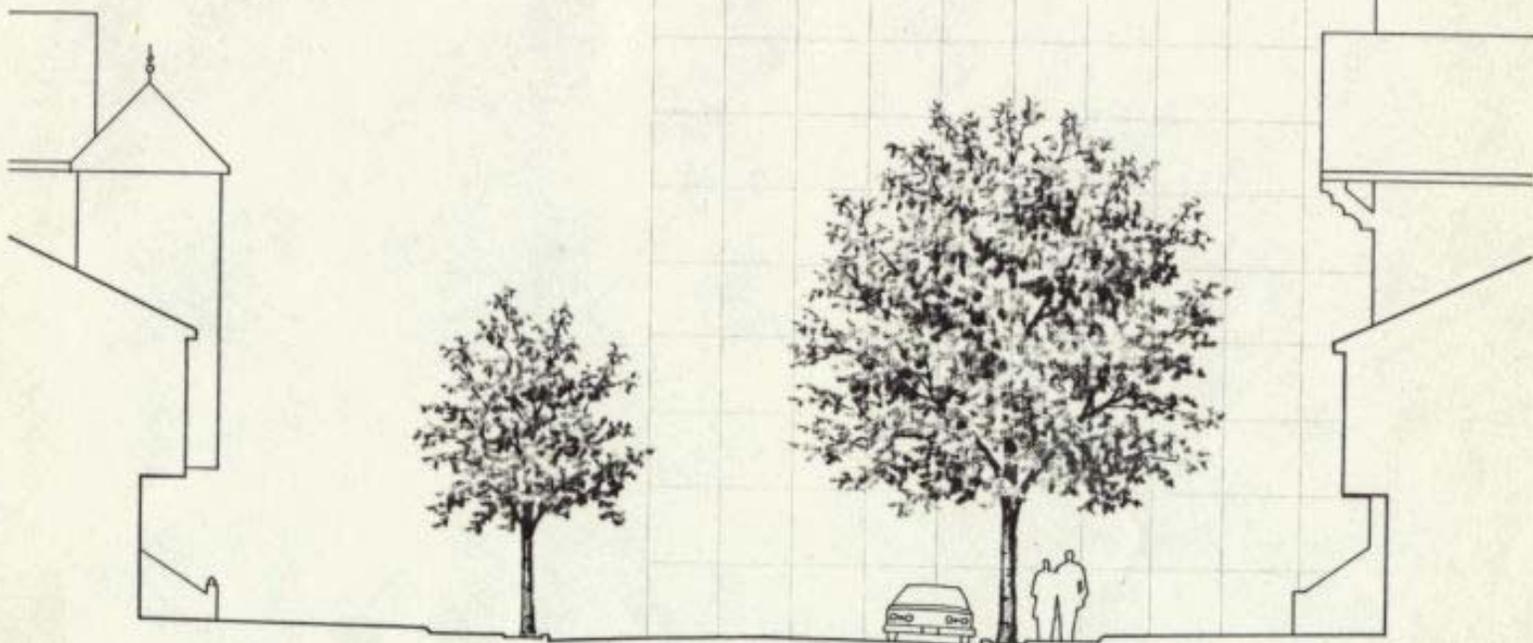
40' - 60' between groups

#### ALTERNATION

Random

Random sub-dominant and accent trees for median  
strip  
Dominant tree for street sides

5-10 YEARS 20'-25' 30 YEARS 40'-40' ULTIMATE 40'-50'



**Acer platanoides**

**BOTANICAL NAME:** *Acer platanoides*  
*Acer platanoides*  
'Schwedleri'

**COMMON NAME:** Norway Maple  
Schwedler's Maple

**GEOGRAPHIC ORIGIN:**  
Europe and Asia Minor

**SHAPE:** Round-headed

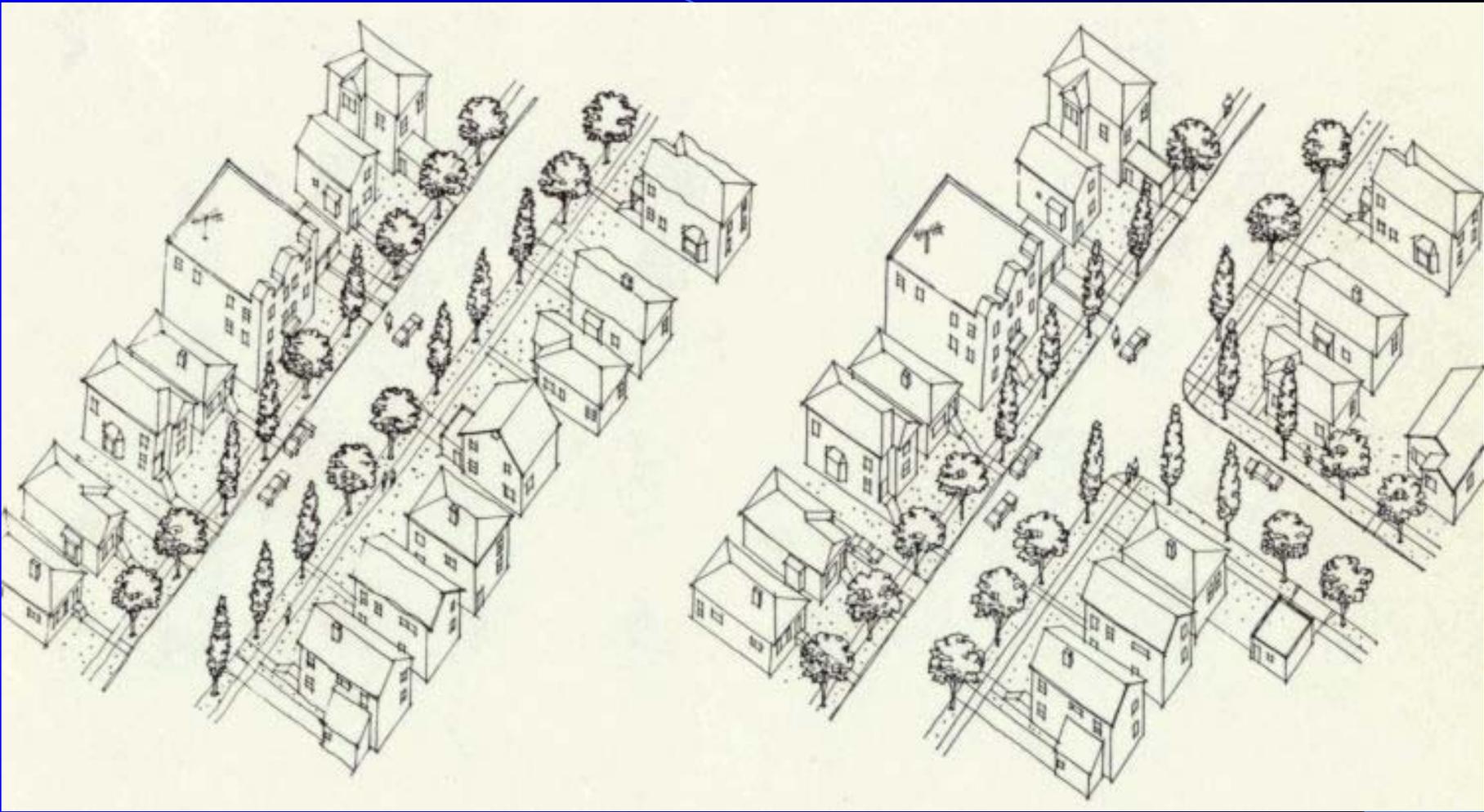
**DISTINGUISHING CHARACTERISTICS:**  
Clean, dark green leaves cover tree in very dense manner  
Very little light penetrates to the ground  
Leaves unfold, light bronze, turn to darker bronze, and then to dark green by middle of season  
Yellow or bronze-red autumn color

**ADVANTAGES:**  
Highly adaptable  
Used for many years as street tree throughout midwest  
Considered somewhat old-fashioned

**DISADVANTAGES:**  
Recently out of style and favor because of density  
Casts dark shade  
Subject to aphids  
Integrated Pest Management or other method of control may be required

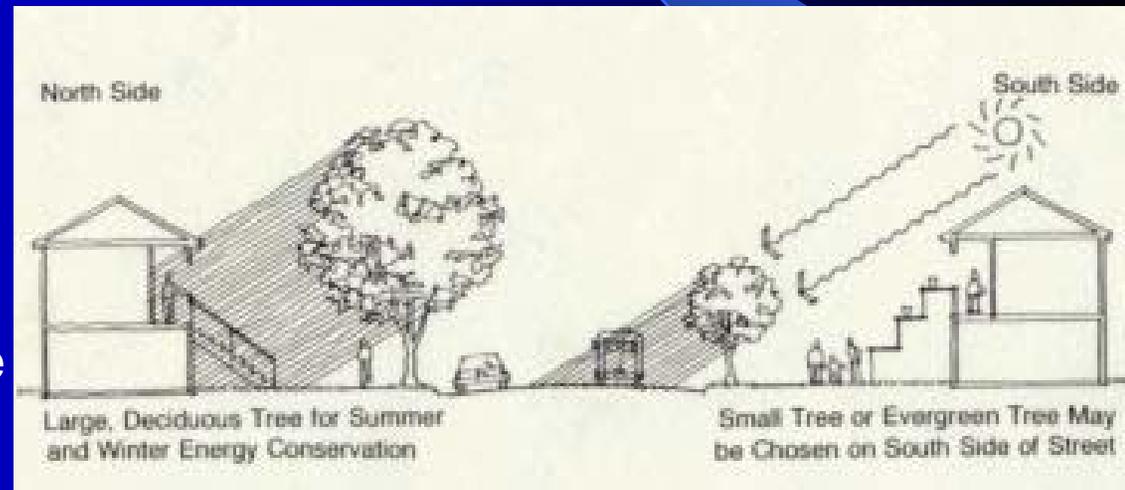
**COMMENTS:**  
Plant in non-alkaline soil  
Prune regularly to open up crown

**EXAMPLES:**  
Dimond Avenue block adjacent to Dimond Park  
(*Acer platanoides*, Norway Maple)



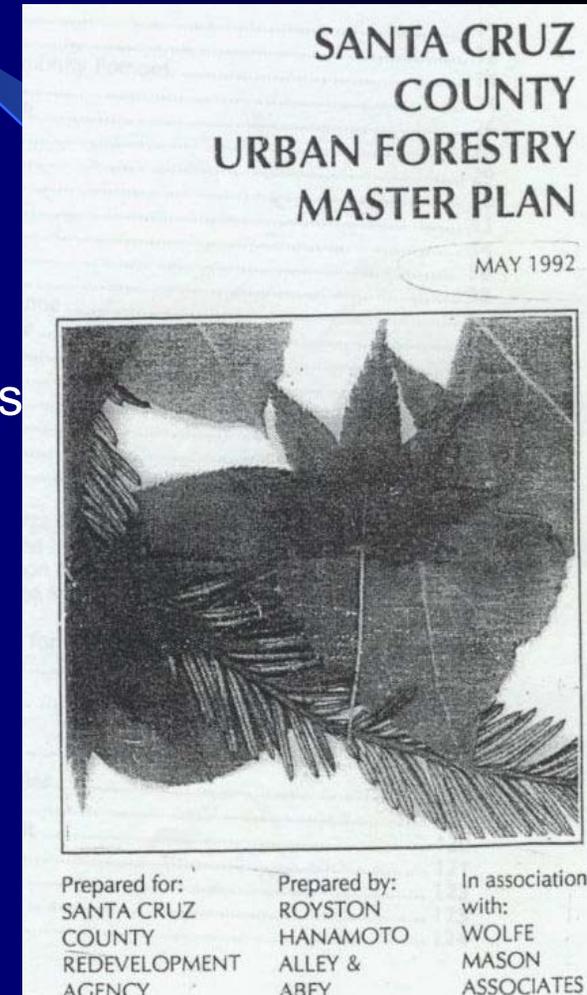
# Implementation Results

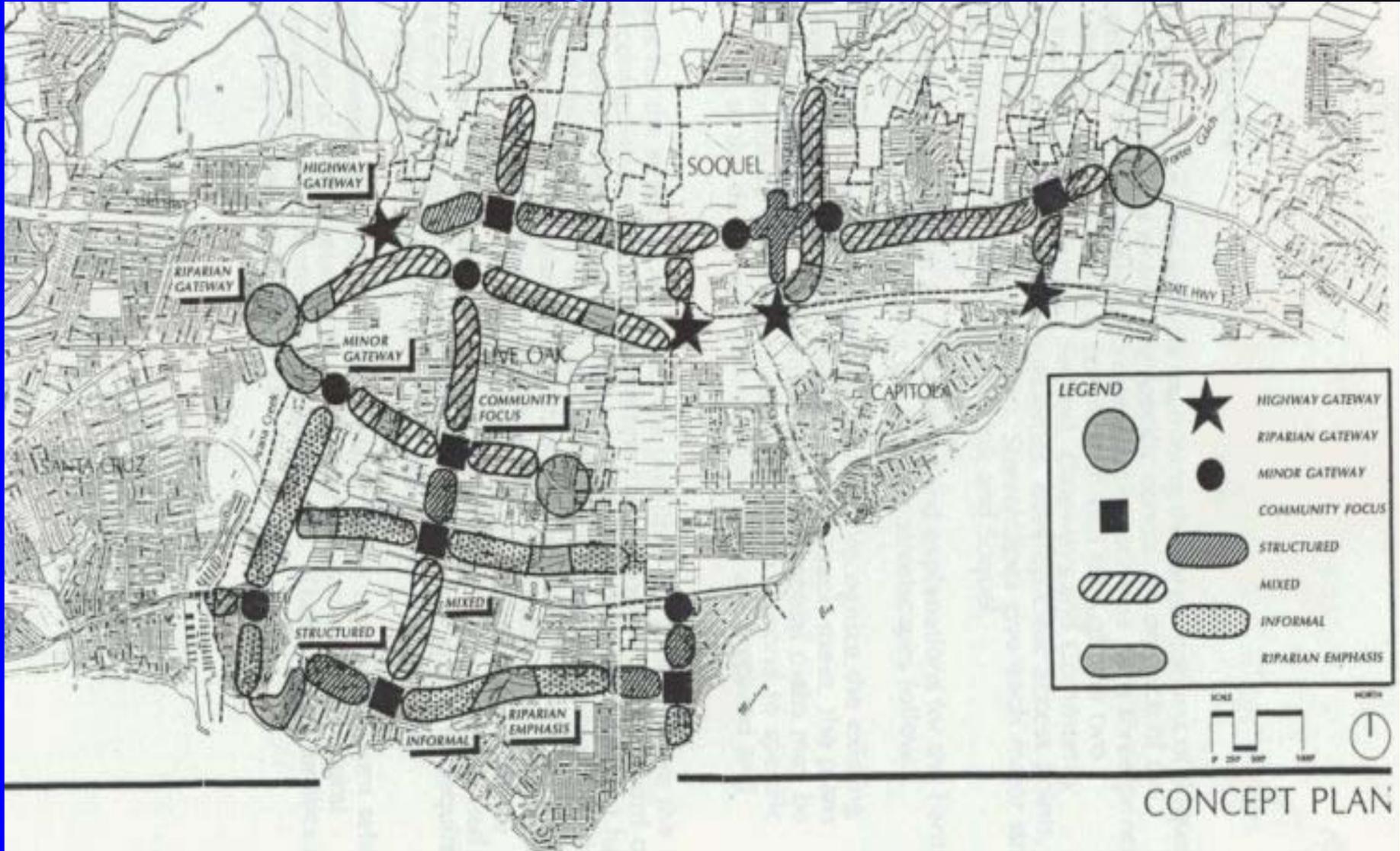
- Success
  - Restored sense of community
  - Tree planting: 62% major streets, 17% other
- Failures
  - Strong design form
  - Management
    - Useful life span
    - IPM
    - Computer database
    - Contract growing
  - Maintenance
  - Administrative Center



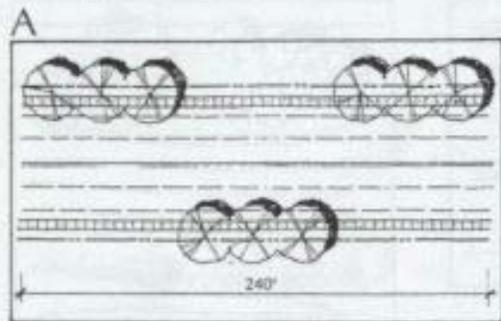
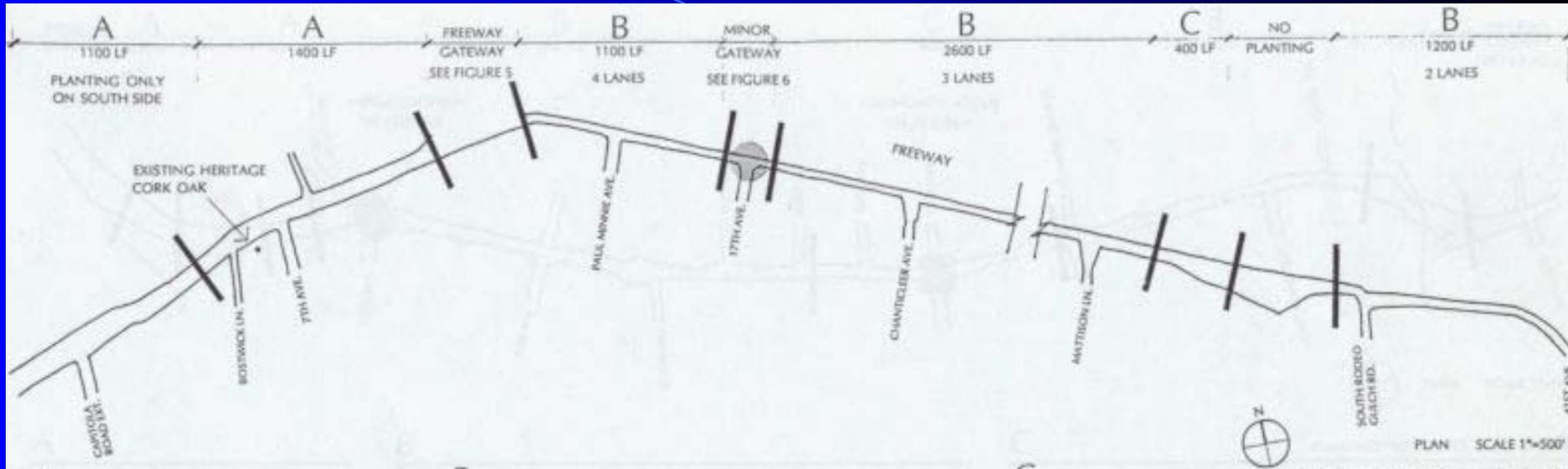
# Santa Cruz County Urban Forestry Master Plan

- Wolfe Mason Assoc. 1992
- Economic Development
  - Visual identity and beautification
  - Major street planting with redevelopment
  - Other streets planted by neighborhood volunteers
- Sophisticated Plan
  - Purpose
  - Guiding principles
  - Overall design theme
  - Management program
  - Volunteer program

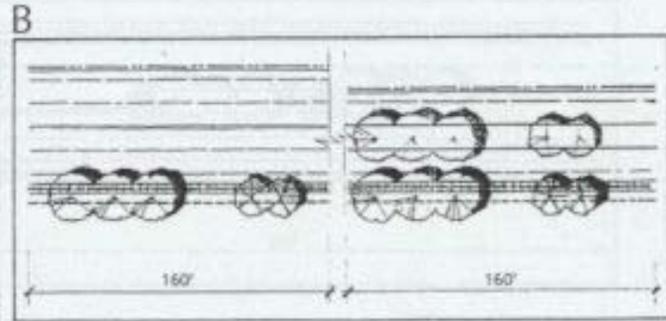




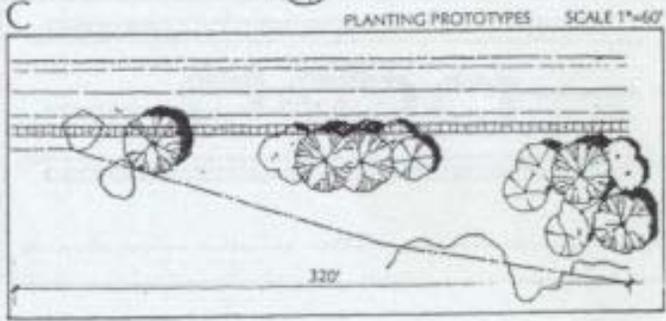
CONCEPT PLAN



- MIXED CHARACTER
- EXISTING CURB AND SIDEWALK TO BE MAINTAINED
- RECOMMENDED SPECIES  
QUERCUS CHRYSOLEPSIS



- MIXED CHARACTER
- PLANTING IN PURCHASED R.O.W. AND/ OR MEDIAN ISLANDS
- SAME CONFIGURATION IN 2-LANE AND 3-LANE SECTIONS
- VINE TO BE GROWN AGAINST FENCE ON FREEWAY SIDE OF STREET
- POSSIBILITY OF MEDIAN ISLAND IN CENTER LANE IN 3-LANE SECTION AS SHOWN
- PLANTING IN CALTRANS R.O.W IN INFORMAL CLUSTERS OF SAME SPECIES
- RECOMMENDED SPECIES  
QUERCUS DOUGLASSII  
LITHOCARPUS DENSIFLORUS



- RIPARIAN CHARACTER
- INCREASE DENSITY OF TREES TOWARDS CREEK
- RECOMMENDED SPECIES  
ALNUS RHOMBIFOLIA  
ACER NEGLUNDO CALIFORNICUM  
SAMBUCUS CAERULEA



# The Trees of San Francisco

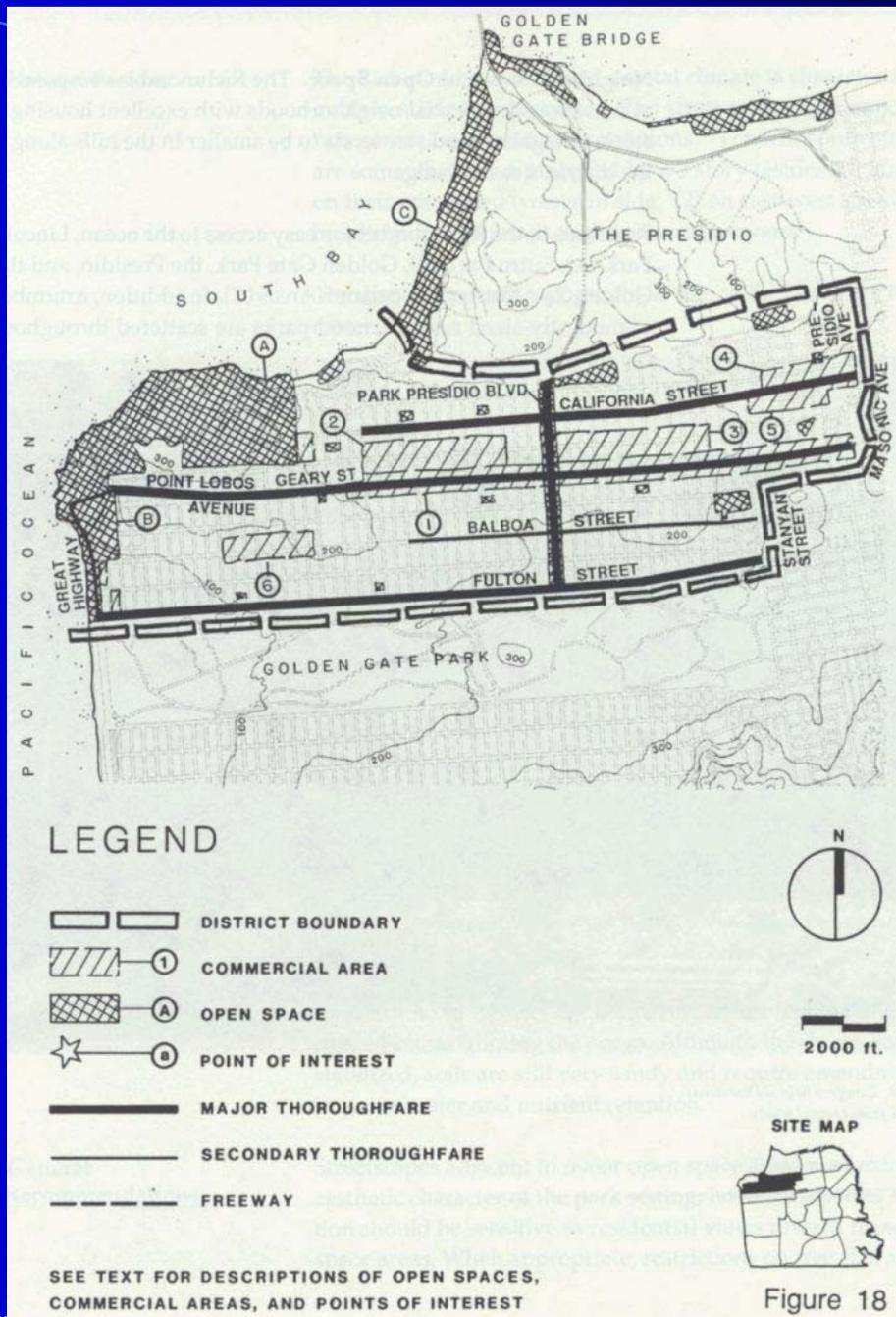
- 1991 by Dept of Public Works and City Tree Advisory Board
- Goal: Maximize resources and guide development of the urban forest
- Elements:
  - Background & History
  - Goals
  - Objectives and Policies
  - Tree Management Plan (Design)
  - Plan Implementation



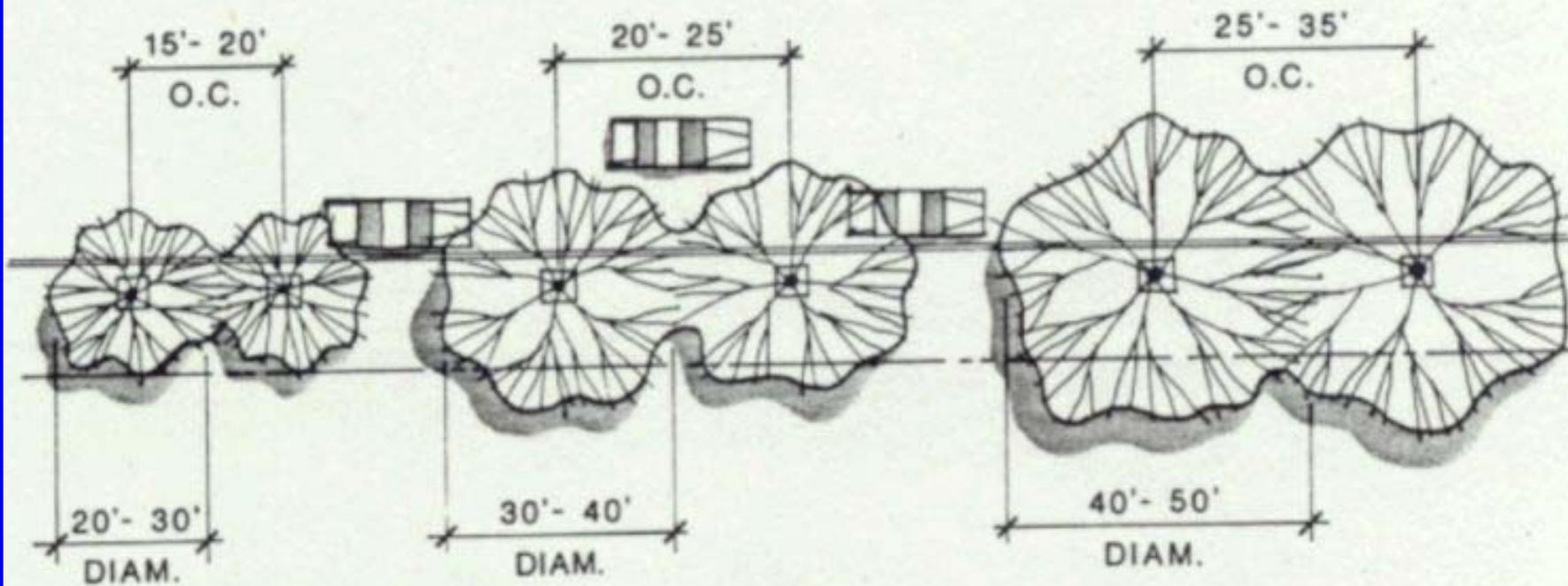
## The Trees of San Francisco

A Plan for the Management of the City's Urban Forest





20'-30' diameter ..... 15'-20'  
 30'-40' diameter ..... 20'-25'  
 40'-50' diameter ..... 25'-35'



# Implementation Results

- Success
  - Tree planting: 75% (3,700/yr)
  - Coordination: planting and maintenance
  - Management
    - Computer database
    - Work scheduling, training
    - Recycling
    - Tree Corps
- Failures
  - Design: site conditions not addressed
  - Management
    - Useful life span
    - IPM
    - PG&E notify of intent to prune

*Mexican Fan Palms with an accent of Brisbane Box trees are recommended for Lombard St.*



# What Worked?

- Broad Goals Met
- Tree Planting (50-70% of goal)
- Management
  - Scheduling work
  - Training
  - Heritage tree program



# What Didn't Work?

- Design Goals
- Inter- and Intra-agency coordination
- Management
  - Diversity and Useful Life Span
  - IPM
  - Computerized tree database
  - Contract growing
  - Education programs



# Lessons Learned

- Clear and Consistent Goals
- Keep it Simple
- Identify Strong Supporters
- Obtain Initial Funding
- Link Design, Management, Enforcement
- Find an Imagined Enemy



# Management Plans

