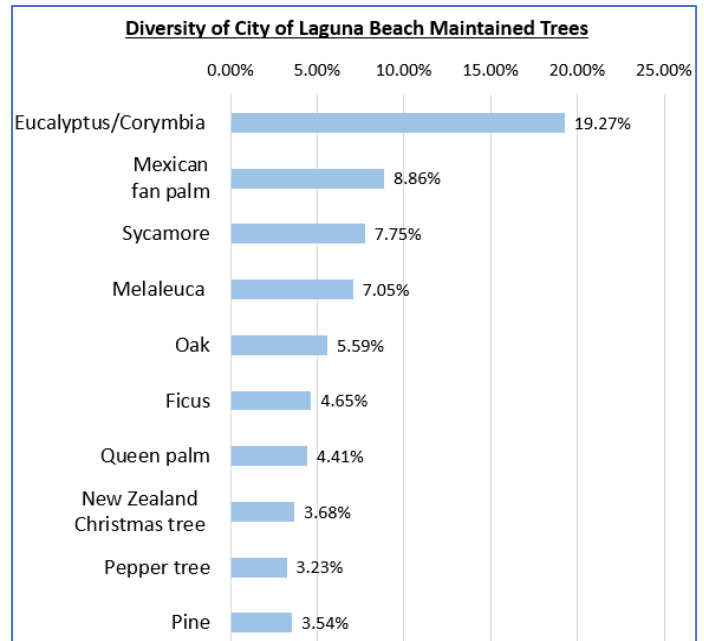




By actively identifying new planting locations all over town, the City of Laguna Beach has been increasing the rate of strategic tree planting, and correcting legacy tree well and hardscape issues around our street trees. Since April, the City has planted 20 new trees (70% are medium or large shade trees) and identified 47 tree wells that need corrective action. So far, we have completed 23 (48%) of these items. We always assess if it's feasible to enlarge the tree well because it has a net-positive on tree health.

The urban forest is a green infrastructure network that provides many benefits to us all. Biodiversity ensures that the urban forest is vibrant, resilient, and maximizes those benefits. The chart to the right shows the 10 most abundant tree types (genus) that the City maintains. For example, Sycamore trees (the genus *Platanus*) makes up 7.75% of all the trees the City maintains. However, using number of trees does have its limitations in measuring biodiversity, so basal area (tree volume) is becoming more popular as an important metric. We plan on being able to quantify this and other data in the future to drive recommendations. Making choices for the health of the urban forest based on data like this, means the positive impacts of trees will be felt far into the future.



We have also submitted a concept proposal to the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection for a grant that would fund a comprehensive tree inventory, canopy and land cover analysis, an Urban Forestry Master Plan, and the planting of 100 new trees. If this comes to fruition, these resources would be a leap toward transforming our tree maintenance program into a more progressive management strategy. This grant program plays a significant role in reaching the State's greenhouse gas emissions reduction targets but would also improve the impact and performance of Laguna's urban forest. Stay tuned for more information!



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Through *LAGUNA ROOTS*, I will bring you periodic updates on Laguna Beach's urban forest. Until then, feel free to contact me directly, or use [Ask Laguna!](#) to submit a request for many City services, including any of your tree related inquiries!