

SAVE WASHINGTON SQUARE'S TREES.

Problem:

San Francisco government agencies are cutting down trees at an unprecedented rate.

Washington Square Park and environs could lose many shade trees.

7 ficus trees on the 600 block of Columbus Avenue were posted with removal notices as of December 26, 2018. If these 7 trees are removed, in addition to the 10 mature park trees that were lost in September 2018, one-third of all park trees will have been removed.

The city's canopy, or tree coverage, is shrinking by 4% each year because of large-scale tree removal. San Francisco already has one of the smallest urban tree canopies of any major U. S. city (13.7% coverage --- 25% is considered ideal).

Agencies and policymakers need to assess all options to removing existing trees before doing so.

Public agencies overseeing tree safety need a strategy to address tree removal and replacement.

Rationale for petition:

San Francisco needs to protect and increase its tree population – not remove trees.

When trees need to be removed for safety and other reasons, there should be a process and strategy with public input that looks at all options for either saving trees or replacing them with trees appropriate to the site from which they are removed.

Trees are essential to the health of human beings, the climate, environment and beauty of the city and community in which we live. Trees aid in cutting pollution and health problems like asthma.

We respectfully ask SF Department of Public Works (DPW), city policymakers and agencies to take steps to address the rising number of tree removals in San Francisco.

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A hearing conducted by S. F. Department of Public Works (DPW) on the removal of 7 ficus trees in Washington Square Park is scheduled for 5:30 pm on Monday, February 25, 2019, S. F. City Hall, Room 400. All S. F. residents are invited to attend and give Public Comment.

We the undersigned respectfully request SF Department of Public Works (DPW) to do the following:

- 1 - Provide a full assessment and public-hearing process to consider alternatives to removal of 7 ficus trees at the 600 block of Columbus Avenue .
- 2 - Formulate and follow a tree-planting strategy that considers:
 - Alternatives to tree removal including maintenance and pruning of trees that are potentially hazardous.
 - Phased tree removal rather than wholesale cutting down.
 - Re-planting of trees that are in stages of growth that do not require years to mature and those that will replace broad, shade cover rather than small, non-canopy trees.
 - Immediate replacement of trees that are removed.
 - Coordination between agencies on tree replacement.

Name	Email or phone
Signature	Address

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Return completed petition forms **by February 23** to Washington Square Ficus, 1859 Powell St #123, San Francisco, CA 94133. Contact WSPficus@sf4all.org. www.sf4all.org