



TITLE

Grow Green American Canyon

RECOMMENDATION

Review and comment on the residential tree planting program.

CONTACT

Alexandra Ikeda, Deputy City Manager

BACKGROUND & ANALYSIS

As part of the Open Space, Active Transportation, and Sustainability (OSATS) Commission's Fiscal Year 2026/27 Work Plan, the Commission was tasked with developing a residential tree planting incentive program. The proposed program supports the City's commitment to sustainability, climate resilience, and urban forestry by encouraging residents to plant trees that provide long-term environmental, economic, and community benefits.

Trees play a critical role in creating healthier, more resilient communities by improving air quality, capturing carbon, reducing urban heat, providing wildlife habitat, and enhancing neighborhood aesthetics. To support these objectives, the proposed Grow Green American Canyon initiative is designed to encourage residents to make environmentally beneficial improvements on their properties. Modeled after the City's successful Cash for Grass Program, provides American Canyon residents rebates on replacing irrigated natural turf with water-wise landscaping. The proposed Grow Green American Canyon program would provide a similar rebate to eligible residents planting approved trees in their front yards.

Purpose of the Program

The Grown Green American Canyon Program is a voluntary residential rebate program designed to encourage residents to plant approved trees in their front yards. The program is designed to expand the City's urban tree canopy while promoting sustainability, climate resilience, and neighborhood beautification. In addition to its environmental benefits, the program supports the local economy by requiring participants to purchase approved trees and eligible planting materials from businesses located in American Canyon. By supporting local businesses and investing in sustainable landscaping, the program creates lasting environmental and community benefits.

Program Overview

Proposed Rebate

- Reimbursement of eligible project costs up to \$750 per residential property.
- Funding available on a first-come, first serve basis until annual program funds are exhausted.
- One rebate per property unless otherwise approved by the City.

Eligible Participants

- American Canyon residents with properties located within the City American Canyon.
- Property owners with properties located within the City of American Canyon.
- Renters of a property within the City of American Canyon with written permission from the property owner.

Local Purchasing Requirement

To maximize the environmental and economic benefits of the program, all eligible project materials must be purchased from businesses located within the City of American Canyon. Program requirements include:

- Trees must be purchased from Mid-City Nursery, the City's participating nursery.
- Mulch, compost, soil amendments, irrigation supplies, stakes, tree ties, and other eligible planting materials must be purchased from businesses located within American Canyon.
- Itemized receipts are required for reimbursement.

This requirement ensures rebate dollars are reinvested in the local economy and supporting American Canyon businesses.

Tree Selection Requirements

To ensure the long-term health and sustainability of the City's urban forest, participating trees must meet the following requirements:

- Trees must be selected from the City's approved tree list and purchased from Mid-City Nursery.
- Trees must be appropriate for the planting location, taking into consideration mature size, utilities, sidewalks, visibility, and long-term maintenance.
- Trees must be planted in the front yard.

Eligible Project Costs

Eligible reimbursement may include:

- Approved trees.
- Mulch.

- Compost or soil amendments.
- Tree stakes and ties.
- Irrigation materials
- Other planting materials approved by the City.

The following would NOT be eligible:

- Labor or installation costs.
- Equipment or tools.
- Delivery charges.
- Purchases made outside the City of American Canyon.
- Trees purchased from any nursery other than Mid-City Nursery.

Program Requirements

Participants would be required to:

- Submit a completed application with pre-project photographs, and completed W9.
- Receive a Notice to Proceed from the City before purchase materials or starting work.
- Complete planting project within six months of approval.
- Schedule a post-project inspection with the City.
- Submit itemized receipts for reimbursement.
- Maintain all trees in accordance with program requirements for a minimum of five (5) years.

Program Administration

1. Submit application with pre-project photographs, and completed W9.
2. City reviews the application and issues a Notice to Proceed.
3. Applicant purchases approved tree(s) and eligible materials from American Canyon businesses, and maintains itemized receipts for reimbursement.
4. Applicant plants tree(s).
5. City conducts a post project inspection.
6. Applicant submits receipts.
7. City issues the rebate payment.

Approved Tree List

- Narrow-leaf Ash Tree (non-native)
- Strawberry Tree (non-native)
- Crape Myrtle (non-native)
- Raywood Ash (non-native)
- American Sweetgum (non-native)
- Olive Tree (non-native)
- Chinese Elm (non-native)
- Chinese Pistache (non-native)
- Red Maple (non-native)

- Valley Oak (native)
- Coast Live Oak (native)
- California Sycamore (native)
- Pacific Madrone (native)
- Box Elder (native)
- White Edler (native)
- Western Redbud (native)

Next Steps

Following the Commission's review and feedback, staff will incorporate the Commission's recommendations into a draft Grow Green American Canyon Program Policy. The draft policy will be presented to the OSATS Commission for final review and recommendation prior to consideration by the City Council.

COUNCIL PRIORITY PROGRAMS AND PROJECTS

Environmental Sustainability: "Demonstrate leadership in environmental sustainability."

FISCAL IMPACT

Not Applicable

ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW

Not Applicable

COMMUNICATION

Level 0: No Further Public Communication Needed

This staff report serves as the initial communication efforts regarding to this work plan item.

ATTACHMENTS:

None