



CITY OF BANNING STAFF REPORT

TO: YOUTH COUNCIL

FROM: Ralph Wright, Parks and Recreation Director

PREPARED BY: Amanda Morgan, Program Coordinator

MEETING DATE: February 3, 2026

SUBJECT: Discussion on Tree Equity and Planting

BACKGROUND:

Tree equity refers to the fair distribution of trees so that all neighborhoods, regardless of income, location, or demographics, can experience the environmental, social, and health benefits that trees provide. Studies have shown that communities with fewer trees often face higher temperatures, poorer air quality, and less safe outdoor spaces. Trees can help reduce heat around schools and parks, improve air quality, and create spaces to welcome recreation and well - being. The City of Banning Parks and Recreation Department, in partnership with the City of Banning Electric Department, has planted trees in various locations in the Banning Parks over the past four years.

Staff will facilitate a discussion on the Youth Council's observations related to tree coverage, identify areas within local parks or public spaces where trees could be planted, and explore ways youth can participate in tree planting efforts and education.

FISCAL IMPACT:

No fiscal impact associated with this item, although there may be future costs related to tree planting

ALTERNATIVES:

None