

## Recreation and Parks Department

Pitch canker is a major problem for RPD that's causing the loss of a significant portion of their canopy. Staff believes the problem is escalating with increasing rapidity because "...the visual effects are becoming more evident." RPD's oldest trees as well as the "Reforestation Trees," which were planted 20-25 years ago, show signs and symptoms of PPC.

There are other potential problems that cause tree mortality in the park system that are not PPC; it is impossible to tell if the tree is truly infected without testing.

RPD staff reports, "...almost every pine I look at shows visible symptoms of what could be canker."

How RPD is currently addressing PPC:

Some Pine trees will be assessed and addressed through the forestry bond; RPD estimates that up to ¼ of their trees could be Monterey Pines. Almost every Monterey Pine they look at shows either early or extensive signs of what can be perceived as Pitch Canker. Even some of the younger trees are dying out from it. Staff has the impression that trees do not recover as they have never seen evidence of recovery. However, many infected trees were already nearing the end of their life when they became infected and most of the failing trees appear to be dying from a combination of stresses that are exacerbated by PPC.

RPD is planting resistant pines to replace dying/dead trees. They are unsure of how effective this will be, but feel there are few other options to consider and want to explore those that are possible.

Tree condition is monitored by RPD staff, including both gardeners and the tree crews. Staff review requests of the gardeners or tree crews, or inquires from garden staff or the general public, to determine whether or not a tree is a hazard tree and should be removed. Individual trees will have their condition monitored before they are removed. Staff has the discretion to decide when a tree has become a hazard and will not recover.

RPD is unable to estimate how much it may cost to manage infected trees; they assign staff time to the work as needed and haven't hired any contractors to address this issue as of yet. However, this is also a major problem because though RPD staff continues to decline, the work loads continue to increase and take away what would be normal day-to-day duties.

RPD would like more access to disease resistant trees, funding options for increased research, and could use more staff to alleviate potential problems caused by these hazard trees.