

**STREET TREE MASTER PLAN
SPECIES DESIGNATION CHANGE
FOR ADOPTION**

Date: 8/24/2022

Location: All of Vernon Road

Present Species Designation:

2700 Blk.	<i>Platanus acerifolia</i>	London Plane Tree
2800 Blk.	<i>Platanus acerifolia</i>	London Plane Tree



Request for species designation change: The Committee recommends (4/0) that the Commission approve *Arbutus 'Marina'*, Marina Madrone, as designation for all of Vernon Road.

Existing Species Profile: *Myoporum laetum*, Myoporum, *Eucalyptus cladocalyx*, Sugar Gum, *Melaleuca nesophila*, Pink Melaleuca, *Melaleuca armillaris*, Drooping Melaleuca, *Pittosporum undulatum*, Victorian Box, *Yucca gloriosa* Spanish Dagger, *Heteromeles arbutifolia*, Toyon, *Rhus integrifolia*, Lemonade Berry, *Acacia decurrens*, Green Wattle, *Platanus racemosa*, California Sycamore, and *Melaleuca quinquenervia*, Cajeput Tree

**PARK COMMISSION ACTION
PHOTO INVENTORY**



City of Santa Barbara
Parks and Recreation Department

Memorandum

DATE: August 24, 2022

TO: Street Tree Advisory Committee

FROM: Nathan Slack, Urban Forest Superintendent

SUBJECT: Request for Species Designation Change – Vernon Road

Forestry staff are requesting that the Street Tree Advisory Committee review and recommend changing the existing species designation for Vernon Road.

Currently, *Platanus x hispanica*, London Plane Tree, is the designated species for planting on Vernon Road. The designation dates back to the initial adoption of the Street Tree Designation List in 1977.

A local landscape architect working on a project located at 2711 Vernon Road made the request for designation change. The property is undergoing significant landscape improvements, one of which involved the permitted removal of a front setback tree (City of Santa Barbara – Parks and Recreation Commission, June 21, 2021). As conditions of approval for the removal, the property owner was required to install a new canopy tree within the front setback of the property and a new street tree. The landscape architect has requested that staff evaluate the feasibility of using *Arbutus* 'Marina', Marina Madrone as a new street tree designation.

Staff have reviewed the request for change and determined the update makes practical sense for the following reasons. Both Forestry staff and the Street Tree Advisory Committee have identified that London Plane Tree should no longer be planted in Santa Barbara due to its documented hybridization with our local native California Sycamore tree populations. Marina Madrone has proven to be a tough urban tree with a high level of drought tolerance. The parkway width of 4 feet is also large enough to support the growth of the new species. Lastly, the Marina Madrone is an evergreen species that will further help to reduce the heat island effect in this area. It is for the reasons listed above that staff have determined that Marina Madrone is a suitable tree for use on Vernon Road.

**Vernon Road
Consolidated Species Information**

Block Number	No. of Trees	Parkway Width
2700 Block		
CAJEPUT TREE	7	4'
JACARANDA	1	4'
VACANT SITE	2	4'
Grand Total	10	