E.6 SD-A Tree

Source: County of San Diego LID Manual

MS4 Permit Category

Site Design

Manual Category

Site Design

Applicable Performance Standard

Site Design

Primary Benefits

Volume Reduction

Description

Trees planted to intercept rainfall and runoff can be used as storm water management measure that provide additional benefits beyond those typically associated with trees, (i.e. energy conservation, air quality improvement, and aesthetic enhancement). Typical storm water management benefits associated with trees include:

- **Interception of rainfall** – tree surfaces (roots, foliage, bark, and branches) intercept, evaporate, store, or convey precipitation to the soil before it reaches surrounding impervious surfaces
- **Reduced erosion** – trees protect denuded area by intercepting or reducing the velocity of rain drops as they fall through the tree canopy
- **Increased infiltration** – soil conditions created by roots and fallen leaves promote infiltration
- **Treatment of storm water** – trees provide treatment through uptake of nutrients and other storm water pollutants (phytoremediation) and support of other biological processes that break down pollutants

Typical tree system components include:

- Trees of the appropriate species for site conditions and constraints
- Available growing space based on tree species, soil type, water availability, surrounding land uses, and project goals
- Staking and planting requirements (see Standard Drawing: SDL-101)

- Optional suspended pavement design to provide structural support for adjacent pavement without requiring compaction of underlying layers
- As needed root barrier devices; a root barrier is a device installed in the ground, between a tree and the sidewalk, intended to guide roots down and away from the sidewalk in order to prevent sidewalk damage.
- Optional tree grates; maximize available space for pedestrian circulation and protect tree roots from compaction.
- Optional shallow surface depression for ponding of excess runoff
- Optional planter box drain

Design Adaptations for Project Goals

Storm water volume credits are only allowed for new trees implemented within the project footprint.

Site design BMP to provide incidental treatment. Trees primarily functions as site design BMPs for incidental treatment. Benefits from trees as a site design BMP are accounted by adjustment factors presented in **Appendix B.2.2**. Trees as a site design BMP are only credited up to 0.25 times the DCV from the project footprint (with a maximum single tree credit volume of 400 ft^3).

Storm water pollutant control BMP to provide treatment. Applicants are allowed to design trees as a pollutant control BMP and obtain credit greater than 0.25 times the DCV from the project footprint (or a credit greater than 400 ft^3 from a single tree). For this option to be approved by the City Engineer, applicant is required to do infiltration feasibility screening (Worksheet C.4-1/Form I-8) and provide calculations supporting the amount of credit claimed from implementing trees within the project footprint. The City Engineer has the discretion to request additional analysis before approving credits greater than 0.25 times the DCV from the project footprint (or a credit greater than 400 ft^3 from a single tree).

Design Criteria and Considerations

Trees must meet the following design criteria and considerations and the requirements of Standard Drawing SDL-101 where applicable. Deviations from the below criteria may be approved at the discretion of the City Engineer if it is determined to be appropriate:

	Siting and Design	Intent/Rationale
□	Tree species is appropriately chosen for the development (private or public). For public rights-of-ways, local planning guidelines and zoning provisions for the permissible species and placement of trees are consulted.	Proper tree placement and species selection minimizes problems such as pavement damage by surface roots and poor growth.

<table>
<tr><th></th><th>Siting and Design</th><th>Intent/Rationale</th></tr>
<tr><td>□</td><td>Location of trees planted along public streets follows local requirements and guidelines. Vehicle and pedestrian line of sight are considered in tree selection and placement.
Unless exemption is granted by the City Engineer the following minimum tree separation distance (from the tree trunk) is followed
<table>
<tr><th>Improvement</th><th>Minimum distance to Tree</th></tr>
<tr><td>Traffic Signal, Stop sign</td><td>20 feet</td></tr>
<tr><td>Underground Utility lines (except sewer)</td><td>5 feet</td></tr>
<tr><td>Sewer Lines</td><td>10 feet</td></tr>
<tr><td>Above ground utility structures (Transformers, Hydrants, Utility poles, etc.)</td><td>10 feet</td></tr>
<tr><td>Driveways</td><td>10 feet</td></tr>
<tr><td>Intersections (intersecting curb lines of two streets)</td><td>25 feet</td></tr>
</table></td><td>Roadway safety for both vehicular and pedestrian traffic is a key consideration for placement along public streets.</td></tr>
<tr><td>□</td><td>Underground utilities and overhead wires are considered in the design and avoided or circumvented. Underground utilities are routed around or through the planter in suspended pavement applications. All underground utilities are protected from water and root penetration.</td><td>Tree growth can damage utilities and overhead wires resulting in service interruptions. Protecting utilities routed through the planter prevents damage and service interruptions.</td></tr>
<tr><td>□</td><td>Suspended pavement design was developed where appropriate to minimize soil compaction and improve infiltration and filtration capabilities.
Suspended pavement was constructed with an approved structural cell.</td><td>Suspended pavement designs provide structural support without compaction of the underlying layers, thereby promoting tree growth.
Recommended structural cells include poured in place concrete columns, Silva Cells manufactured by Deeproot Green Infrastructures and Stratacell and Stratavault systems manufactured by Citygreen Systems.</td></tr>
<tr><td>□</td><td>A minimum soil volume of 2 cubic feet per square foot of canopy projection area is provided for each tree. Canopy projection area is the ground area beneath the tree, measured at the mature tree drip line.

Applicant uses soil amendments (SD-F), as necessary. Soil amendments result in healthier plant growth, reduced irrigation demands, and reduced need for fertilization and maintenance</td><td>The minimum soil volume is required to support a healthy tree.

A lower amount of soil volume may be allowed if certified by a landscape architect or agronomist that the installed soil volume will be adequate for health tree growth. The retention credit from the tree must be directly proportional to the soil volume installed for the tree.</td></tr>
</table>

	Siting and Design	Intent/Rationale
□	DCV from the tributary area draining to the tree is equal to or greater than the tree credit volume	The minimum tributary area ensures that the tree receives enough runoff to fully utilize the infiltration and evapotranspiration potential provided. In cases where the minimum tributary area is not provided, the tree credit volume must be reduced proportionately to the actual tributary area.
□	Inlet opening to the tree that is at least 18 inches wide. A minimum 2 inch drop in grade from the inlet to the finish grade of the tree. Grated inlets are allowed for pedestrian circulation. Grates need to be ADA compliant and have sufficient slip resistance.	Design requirement to ensure that the runoff from the tributary area is not bypassed. Different inlet openings and drops in grade may be allowed at the discretion of the City Engineer if calculations are shown that the diversion flow rate (Appendix B.1.2) from the tributary area can be conveyed to the tree. In cases where the inlet capacity is limiting the amount of runoff draining to the tree, the tree credit volume must be reduced proportionately.

Conceptual Design and Sizing Approach for Site Design and Storm Water Pollutant Control

- Determine the areas where trees can be used in the site design to achieve incidental treatment. Trees reduce runoff volumes from the site. Refer to **Appendix B.2.2**. Document the proposed tree locations in the SWQMP.
- When trees are proposed as a storm water pollutant control BMP, applicant must complete feasibility analysis in **Appendix C and D** and submit detailed calculations for the DCV treated by trees. Document the proposed tree locations, feasibility analysis and sizing calculations in the SWQMP. The following calculations should be performed and the smallest of the three should be used as the volume treated by trees:
    - Delineate the DMA (tributary area) to the tree and calculate the associated DCV.
    - Calculate the required diversion flow rate using **Appendix B.1.2** and size the inlet required to convey this flow rate to the tree. If the proposed inlet cannot convey the diversion flow rate for the entire tributary area, then the DCV that enters the tree should be proportionally reduced.
        - For example, 0.5 acre drains to the tree and the associated DCV is 820 ft^3. The required diversion flow rate is 0.10 ft^3/s, but only an inlet that can divert 0.05 ft^3/s could be installed.
        - Then the effective DCV draining to the tree = 820 ft^3 * (0.05/0.10) = 420 ft^3
    - Estimate the amount of storm water treated by the tree by summing the following:
        - Evapotranspiration credit of 0.1 * amount of soil volume installed; and
        - Infiltration credit calculated using sizing procedures in **Appendix B.4**.

Permeable Pavement can also be designed as a structural BMP to treat run on from adjacent areas. Refer to INF-3 factsheet in **Appendix E** and **Appendix B.4** for additional guidance.

B.2.2 Adjustment to DCV

When the following site design BMPs are implemented the anticipated volume reduction from these BMPs shall be deducted from the DCV to estimate the volume for which the downstream structural BMP should be sized for:

- SD-A: Trees
- SD-E Rain barrels

B.2.2.1 Trees

Applicants are allowed to take credit for installing new trees using Table B.2-2 or Equation B.2-1 as applicable, when trees are implemented in accordance with SD-A fact sheet and meet the following criteria:

- Total tree credit volume is less than or equal to 0.25 DCV of the project footprint and
- Single tree credit volume is less than or equal to 400 ft^3.

Credit for trees that do not meet the above criteria shall be based on the criteria for sizing the tree as a storm water pollutant control BMP in SD-A fact sheet. These credit calculations are based on an assumption that each tree and associated trench or box is considered a single BMP, with calculations based on the media storage volume and contributing area.

Table B.2-2 was developed assuming that the entire tributary area is impervious (use Equation B.2-1 if there are different types of surfaces in the contributing area) and an 85^{th} percentile 24-hour rainfall depth of 0.5 inches. The procedure for estimating the tree credit volume using Table B.2-2:

- Delineate the tributary area to the tree and use this tributary area to determine the tree credit volume using Table B.2-2. Use linear interpolation if the tributary area is in between the areas listed in Table B.2-2. When the contributing area is greater than 10,667 ft^2 this simplified method is not allowed.
- Using the amount of soil volume installed to determine the credit using Table B.2-2. Use linear interpolation if the soil volume is in between the values listed in Table B.2-2. When the soil volume is greater than 1,333 ft^3 this simplified method is not allowed.
- Use the smaller tree credit volume of the two estimates.

Table B.2-2: Allowable Reduction in DCV

Tree Credit Volume (ft^3/tree)[1]	Contributing Area (ft^2)	Soil Volume (ft^3)
10	267	33
50	1,333	167
100	2,667	333
150	4,000	500
200	5,333	667
300	8,000	1,000
400	10,667	1,333

Note: [1]If an underdrain is installed only 1/3rd of the tree credit volume shown in Table B.2-2 is allowed.

Applicant can also estimate the tree credit volume using Equation B.2-1.

Equation B.2-1: Tree Credit Volume

$$TCV = Minimum(SV \times 0.3,\ 3,630 \times d \times C \times A)$$; With no underdrains installed

$$TCV = Minimum(SV \times 0.1,\ 3,630 \times d \times C \times A)$$; When an underdrain is installed

where:

TCV	=	Tree credit volume (ft^3); maximum of 400 ft^3 for one tree and not more than 0.25*DCV from the project footprint for all trees proposed as site design BMPs
SV	=	Soil volume installed with the tree (ft^3)
d	=	85th percentile 24-hr storm depth (inches) from Figure B.1-1
C	=	Area weighted runoff factor (calculate using Appendix B.1.1 and B.2.1)
A	=	Area tributary to the tree (acres)

B.2.2.2 Rain Barrels

Rain barrels are containers that can capture rooftop runoff and store it for future use. Credit can be taken for the full rain barrel volume when each barrel volume is smaller than 100 gallons, implemented per SD-E fact sheet and meet the following criteria:

- Total rain barrel volume is less than 0.25 DCV **and**
- Landscape areas are greater than 30 percent of the project footprint.

Credit for harvest and use systems that do not meet the above criteria must be based on the criteria in **Appendix B.3** and HU-1 fact sheet in **Appendix E**.