

Tree Removal Hearing April 29, 2019



StreetTreeSF





StreetTreeSF

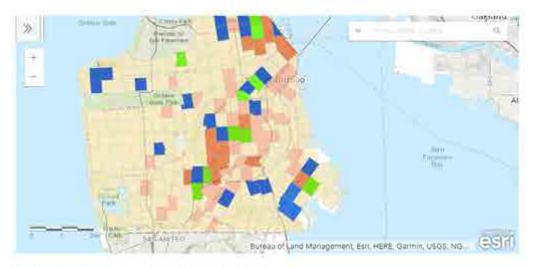
About Us Get Involved Projects

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Tree Pruning Schedule

StreetTreeSF went into effect July 1, 2017. Since then, we have begun tree maintenance work throughout the City, starting with the worst trees first. We ask for your patience as we work diligently to attend to the City's 125,000 street trees.

The below StreetTreeSF pruning map is a guide to when and where current work is happening and what work is planned over the next several years. Enter your full address to find out when trees in your neighborhood will receive a visit from a StreetTreeSF crew.





Where we are this week schedule (coming soon!)

Challenges with ficus trees Ficus micropcarpa 'Nitida'

- Once popular street tree (green & so healthy looking!)
- Initial issues were sidewalk damage/tree roots
- Removed from planting list in mid 1990s
- Increasing amount of large stem failures
- Public safety concerns:
 Blocked roads, property damage, injuries



Director's Order No. 183151 Tree Removal Criteria for Ficus

- Acknowledges the benefits and value of ficus trees
- Outlines in detail the structural defects that are leading to the large stem failures
- Primary issue: codominant stems with narrow angles of attachment, with or without included bark





Ficus Trees

Services

- Report a Problem
- Cleaning Programs
- Contractor Resources
- Earthage & Waste
- **Graffiti**
- Parmits
- Potholes
- Fuolic Records Request
- Public Tollets
- Recycling & Refuse Collection
- Storm Preparation
- Street Sweeping
- Sidewalks
- Street Resurfacing
- Street Trees and Plants
- StreetTreeSF
- Greening Projects
- Permits Street Trees and Plants
- Plant Lists and Palettes
- Street Tree Listings
- Utban Forest Plan



Ficus trees are a common street tree in San Francisco. They are known for their impressive canopy and for decades have served as a showcase species along such streets at Hyde, Lombard and Potrero, However, there are



City and County of San Francisco

San Francisco Department of Public Works



GENERAL - DIRECTOR'S OFFICE City Hall, Room 348 1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place, S.F., CA 94102 (415) 554-8920 www.sfdpw.org



Edwin M. Lee, Mayor Mohammed Nuru, Director

DPW Order No: 183151

Tree removal criteria for ficus trees (Ficus microcarpa 'Nitida').

Article 16 of the Public Works Code governs trees and landscaping in the public right of way. The residents of San Francisco value street trees, and have mandated their protection. Article 16 of the Public Works Code, adopted as the Urban Forestry Ordinance of 1995, was created to:

- (a) Realize the optimum public benefits of trees on the City's streets and public places, including favorable modification of microclimates, abatement of air and noise pollution, reduction of soil erosion and runoff, enhancement of the visual environment, and promotion of community pride;
- (g) Recognize that trees are an essential part of the City's aesthetic environment and that the removal of important trees should be addressed through appropriate public participation and dialogue, including the California Environmental Quality Act (Public Resources Code Sections 21000 et seq.).
- (h) Recognize that green spaces are vital to San Francisco's quality of life, as they provide a range of environmental benefits and bring beauty to our residential neighborhoods and commercial districts.

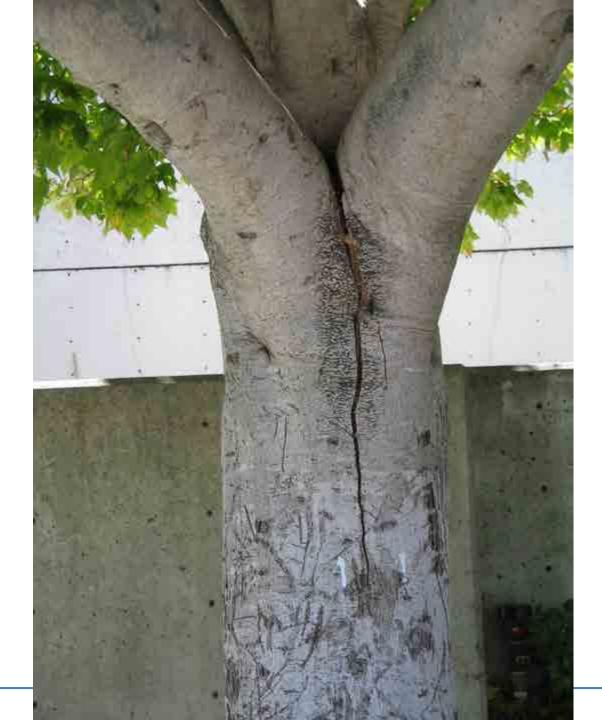
However, it also was designed to:

(d) Reduce the public hazard, nuisance, and expense occasioned by improper tree selection, planting, and maintenance.

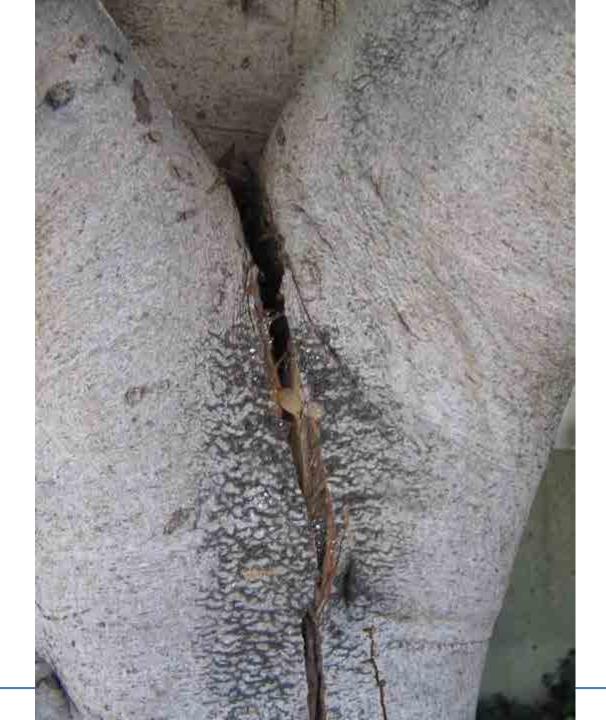
The tree structure of many of these ficus trees includes large, competing trunks with acute angles of attachment. Due to recent large limb and tree failures of ficus trees, causing property damage, injury and concerns for public safety, the Director of Public Works has established new guidelines for the staff evaluation and determination of whether to approve removal of this particular species of tree on a case-by-case basis.

There is no one-size fits all approach and each tree must be evaluated by a qualified arborist. Ficus trees that are candidates for removal may only exhibit one of the defects described below, or, multiple defects may be present.



















Ficus tree safety concerns top Hayes Valley meeting agenda





364 Hayes

But the program faces a major challenge in the city's aging population of ficus trees, whose structural flaws make them prone to dropping branches or toppling over entirely. The large ficus tree that fell across Hayes Street on December 27 damaged a delivery truck, and snarled traffic for hours.



The fallen ficus tree on Hayes Street on December 27 damaged a truck and snarled traffic for six hours. | IMAGE: SF FIRE DEPARTMENT PUBLIC INFORMATION OFFICE/TWITTER



In 2014, SF Public Works adopted guidance that eases removal of ficus trees due to structural concerns,











Reached out to community to explain our findings

- Identified 39 street trees, mostly ficus, in the immediate area
- Staff attended HVNA meetings and offered to walk and look at the trees together to point out our concerns, tree by tree



Community sentiment & feedback was very strong

- We were asked repeatedly to return to see if any trees could be phased or pruned more aggressively
- Review of 28 trees still proposed for removal
- Review of 11 now proposed to be retained, but with "experimental" aggressive pruning



City and County of San Francisco

San Francisco Public Works

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London N. Breed, Mayor Mohammed Nuru, Director

Public Works Order No: 200996

The Director of Public Works will hold a public hearing on Monday, April 29th, 2019 commencing at 5:30 p.m. or Room 416 of City Hall, located at 1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place, San Francisco, to consider the following:

Removal of thirty-nine (39) street trees (Ficus) with replacement (unless otherwise noted) adjacent to the locations listed below.

Staff has approved the removals and the public has protested

The following locations on Octavia Street:

508 Octavia: 6 ficus; 534 Octavia: 2 ficus; 550-560 Octavia: 5 ficus; 600 Octavia: 3 ficus; 630 Octavia: 1 ficus; 636 Octavia: 1 ficus; 636 Octavia: 2 ficus; 660 Octavia: 2 ficus;

523 Octavia: 1 ficus; 515 Octavia: 1 ficus; 501 Octavia: 1 poplar free;

The following locations on Haves Street:

412 Hayes: 3 ficus (not replantable – bus zone); 430 Hayes: 1 ficus; 520 Hayes: 3 ficus (only middle tree replantable – multiple conflicts); 568 Hayes: 1 ficus;

The following locations on Grove Street: "499" Grove: 2 ficus: 501 Grove: 1 ficus: 530 Grove: 1 ficus:

The following locations on Ivy Street

380 Ivy: I ficus (not replantable): 426 Ivy: I ficus (not replantable):

Interested parties are encouraged to attend. Persons unable to attend the public hearing may submit written comments regarding the subject matter to the Bureau of Urban Forestry, 1680 Mission Street, 1st floot. San Francisco, CA 94103. These comments will be brought to the attention of the hearing officer and made a part of the official public record.

Further information, if desired, on this matter may be obtained prior to the hearing by phoning the Bureau of Urban Forestry at (415) 554-6700.



San Printered Public Works

Making San Francisco a beautiful, livable, vibrant, and sustainable city.



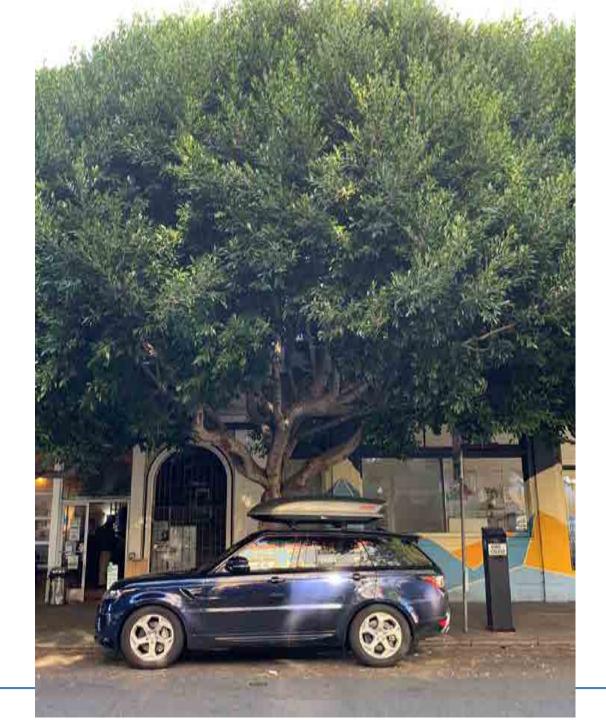
11 Trees to be pruned (experimenta/aggressively)			
Address/location	Tree #/site	Revised recommenation	Comments
412 Hayes St.	Tree 1	Retain tree/prune	These 3 trees are adjacent to a bus zone; not replantable due to SFMTA requirements.
412 Hayes St.	Tree 2	Retain tree/prune	Retain these three trees this cycle. Prune heavily to reduce failure potential.
412 Hayes St.	Tree 3	Retain tree/prune	Retain these three trees this cycle. Prune heavily to reduce failure potential.
Octavia (Hayes to Ivy) East Side 508 Octavia	Tree 1	Retain/prune	At corner of cross walk. Heavy pruning req'd; remove entire stem toward intersect.
508 Octavia	Tree 2	Retain/prune	Smaller tree, very poor structure. Remove large stem that is low, over road.
508 Octavia	Tree 3	Remove tree/replace	Most of the structure leans over rd; removing these stems removes most of tree.
508 Octavia	Tree 4	Retain/prune	Smaller tree. Very poor structure. In front of café (Café la Vie, 514 Octavia). Prune.
508 Octavia	Tree 5	Remove/replace	Smaller tree but terrible structure. Remove and replace.
508 Octavia	Tree 6	Remove/replace	Terrible structure
Octavia (Ivy to Grove) East Side 534 Octavia	Tree 1	Remove/replace	Very large trunk, very poor structure, extreme bark inclusion & lean over road.
534 Octavia	Tree 2	Remove/replace	Smaller tree but tree has been topped; terrible structure, nothing to work with.
550-560 Octavia	Tree 1	Remove/replace	Terrible structure, leaning towards road, nothing to work with.
550-560 Octavia	Tree 2	Retain/prune	Smaller tree. Wasn't topped previosuly. We will heed to prune it heavily.
550-560 Octavia	Tree 3	Remove/replace	Leans over road. Very poor structure.
550-560 Octavia	Tree 4	Retain/prune	Generally upright. Poor structure. Prune heavily.
550-560 Octavia	Tree 5	Retain/prune	At Stop Sign. Not replnatable. Remove several large stems/laterals & overall reduction.
600 Octavia (Grove to Fulton) 600 Octavia	Tree 1	Remove/replace	Very large trunk, very poor structure, sidewalk damage, lean over road.
600 Octavia	Tree 2	Remove/replace	Lean over road, very poor structure. Remove tree
600 Octavia	Tree 3	Retain/prune	Entire large lateral branch on south side needs to be removed. Balance, heavy prune.
630 Octavia	Tree 1/1	Retain/prune	Relatively upright stems. Poor structure. Prune, monitor.
	412 Hayes St. 412 Hayes St. 412 Hayes St. Octavia (Hayes to Ivy) East Side 508 Octavia 508 Octavia 508 Octavia 508 Octavia 508 Octavia 508 Octavia Octavia (Ivy to Grove) East Side 534 Octavia 534 Octavia 550-560 Octavia 550-560 Octavia 550-560 Octavia 550-560 Octavia 650-560 Octavia 650-560 Octavia 650-560 Octavia	412 Hayes St. Tree 1 412 Hayes St. Tree 2 412 Hayes St. Tree 3 Octavia (Hayes to Ivy) East Side 508 Octavia Tree 1 508 Octavia Tree 2 508 Octavia Tree 3 508 Octavia Tree 4 508 Octavia Tree 5 508 Octavia Tree 6 Octavia (Ivy to Grove) East Side 534 Octavia Tree 1 534 Octavia Tree 2 550-560 Octavia Tree 1 550-560 Octavia Tree 2 550-560 Octavia Tree 3 550-560 Octavia Tree 3 550-560 Octavia Tree 3 550-560 Octavia Tree 5 600 Octavia (Grove to Fulton) 600 Octavia Tree 1 600 Octavia Tree 2 600 Octavia Tree 2 Tree 3	A12 Hayes St. A24 Hayes St. A25 Retain tree/prune A26 Retain tree/prune A27 Retain tree/prune A28 Retain tree/prune A29 Retain tree/prune A20 Retain tree/prune A21 Retain tree/prune A22 Retain tree/prune A23 Retain tree/prune A24 Retain tree/prune A25 Retain tree/prune A2



28 trees still proposed for removal

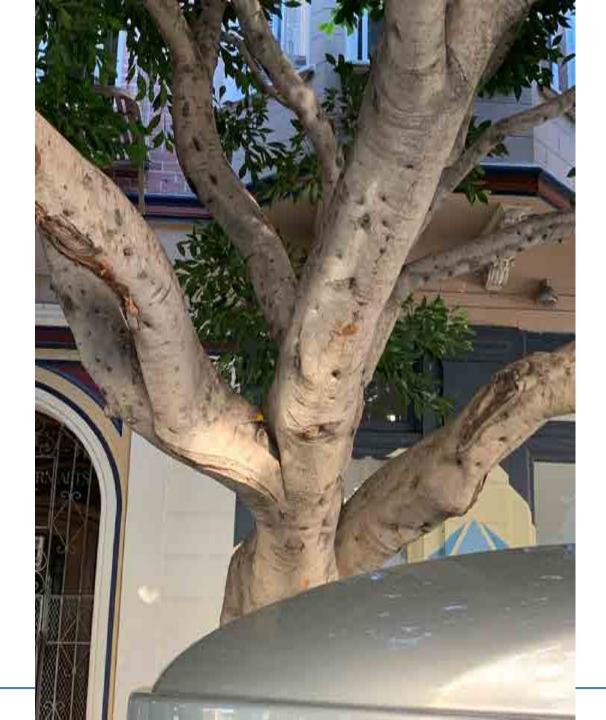


508 Octavia Tree no. 3

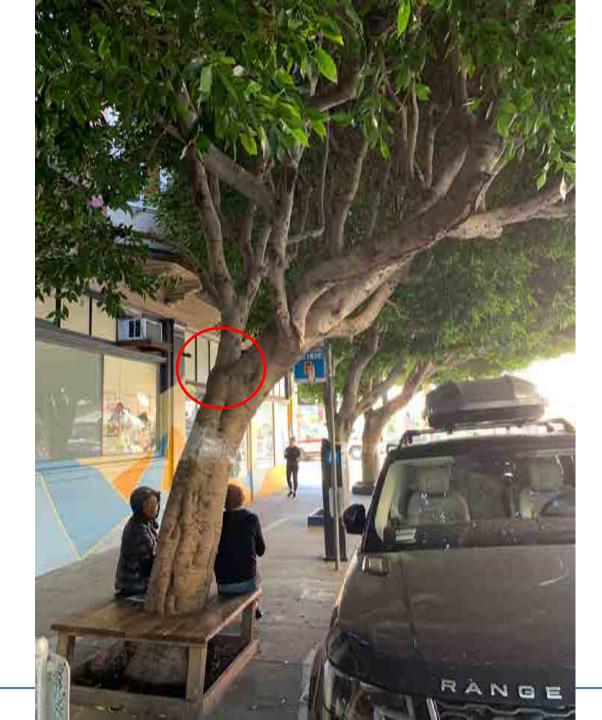






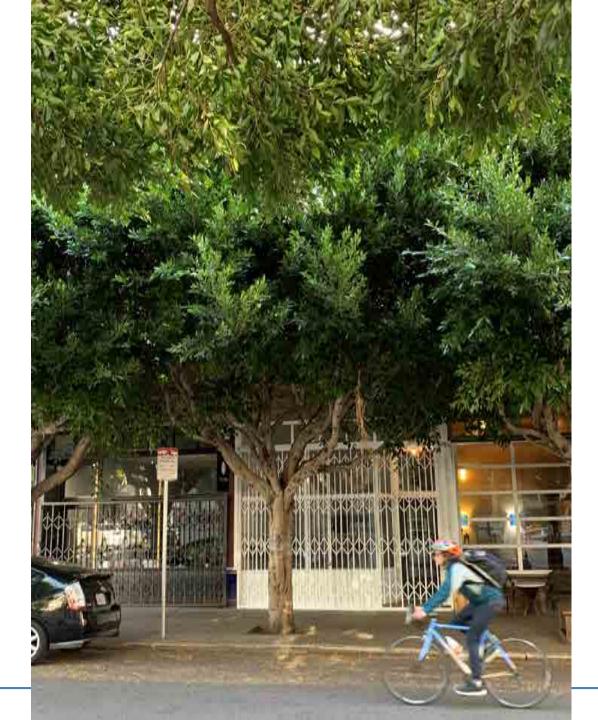




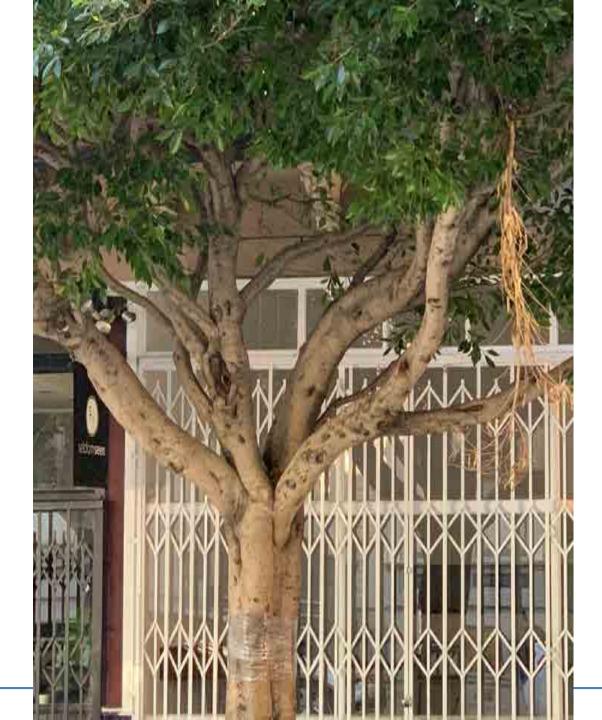




508 Octavia Tree no. 5









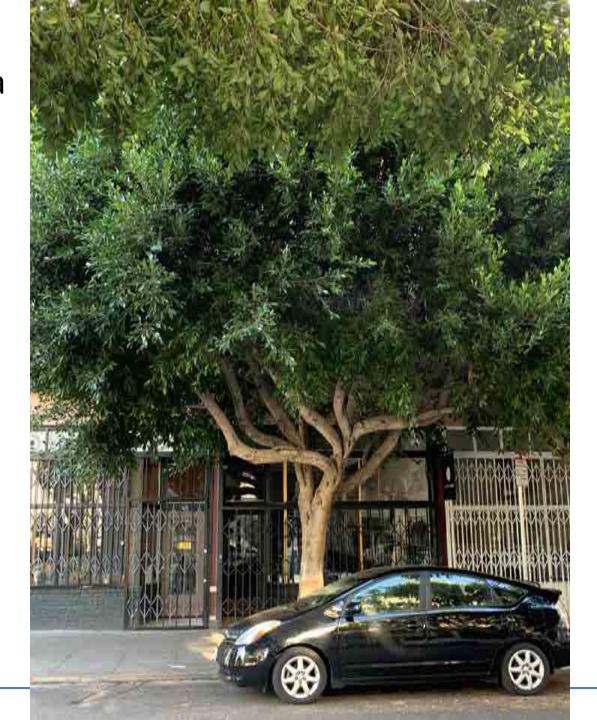




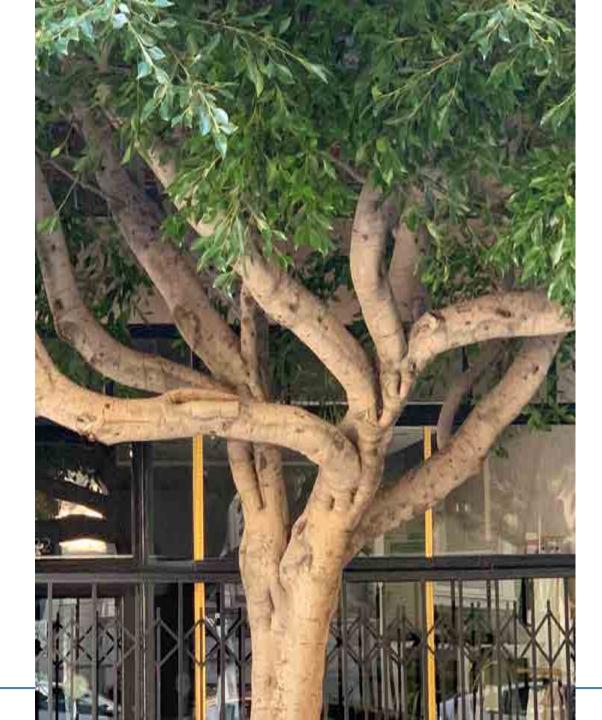




508 Octavia Tree no. 6























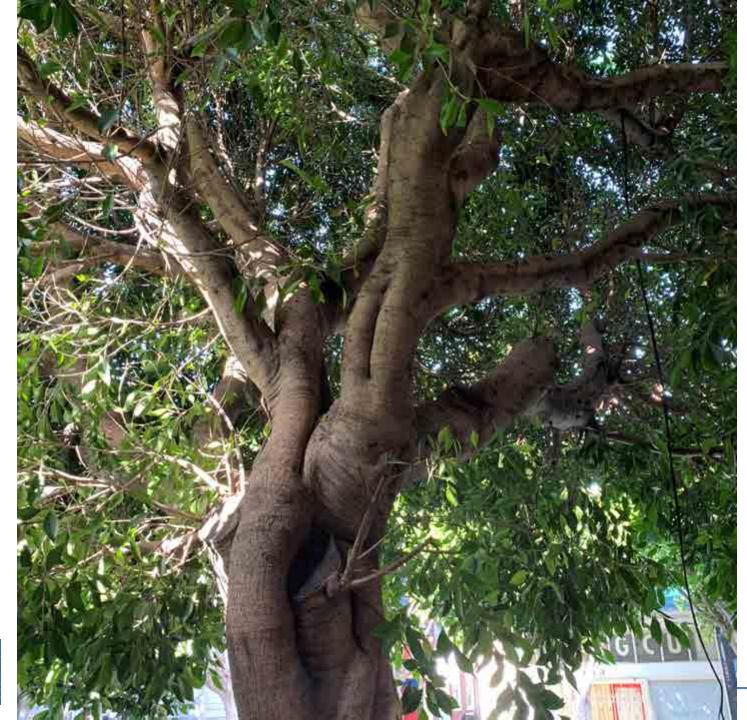
534 Octavia Tree no. 1



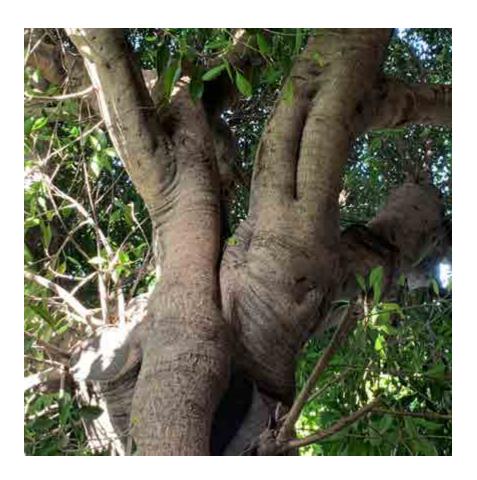








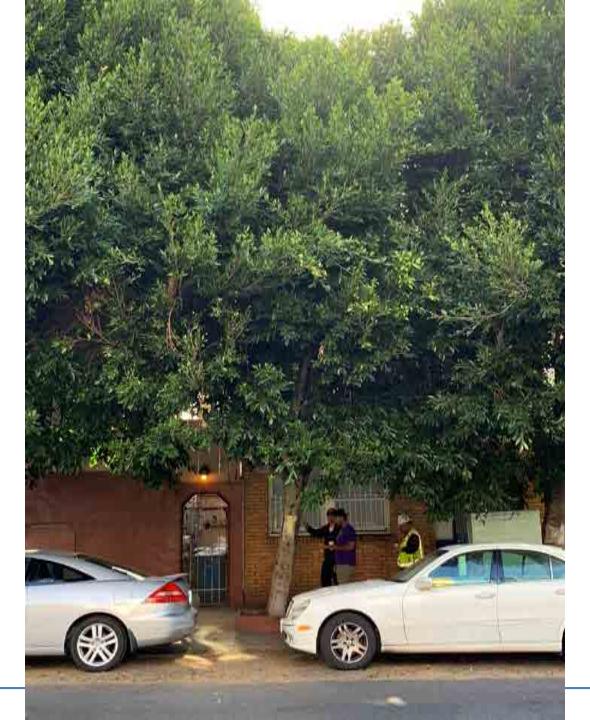




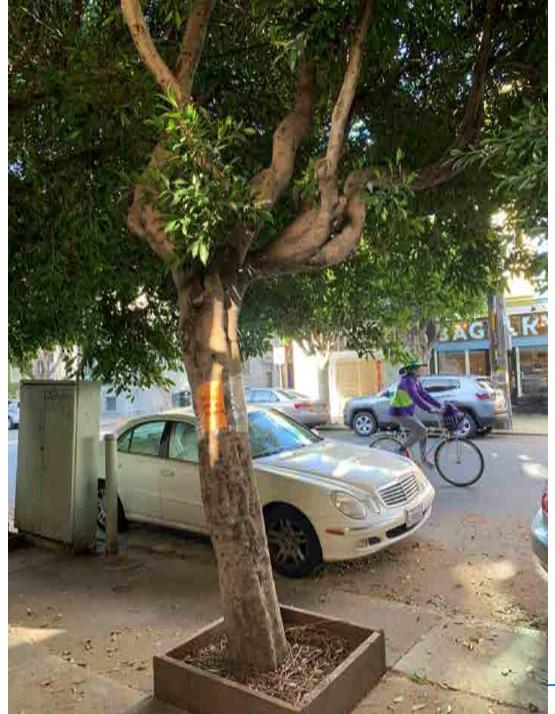


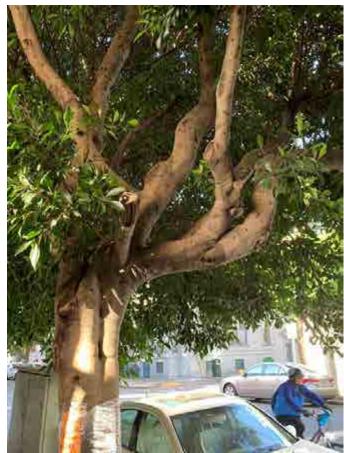


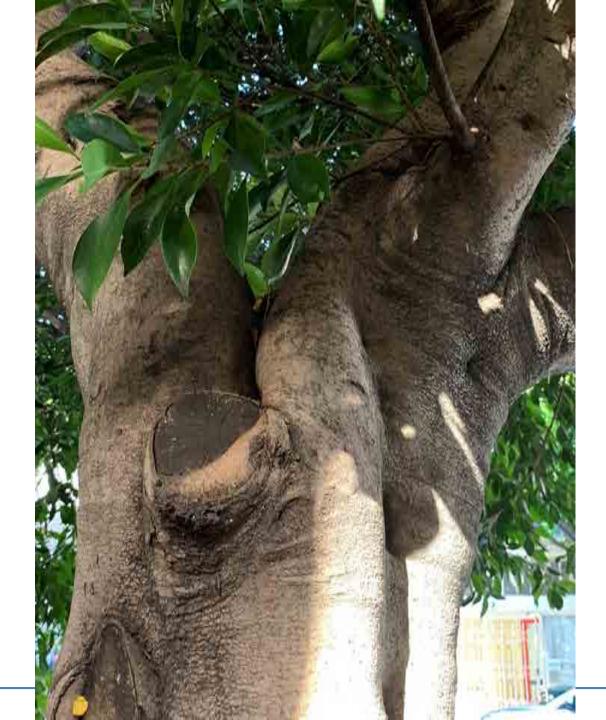
534 Octavia Tree no. 2



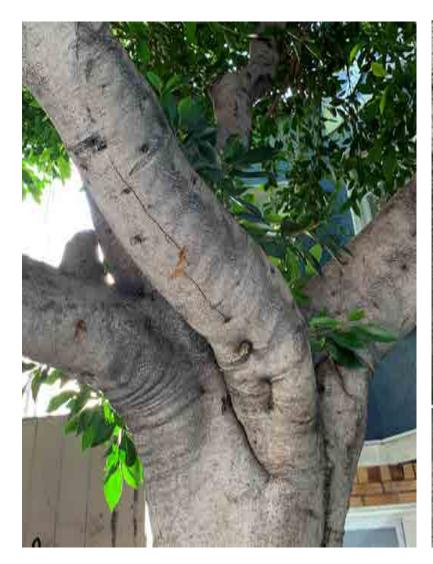












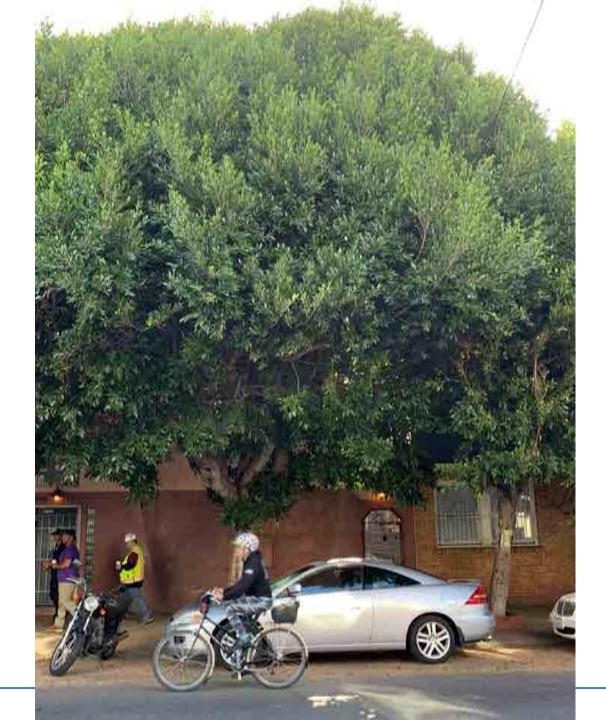




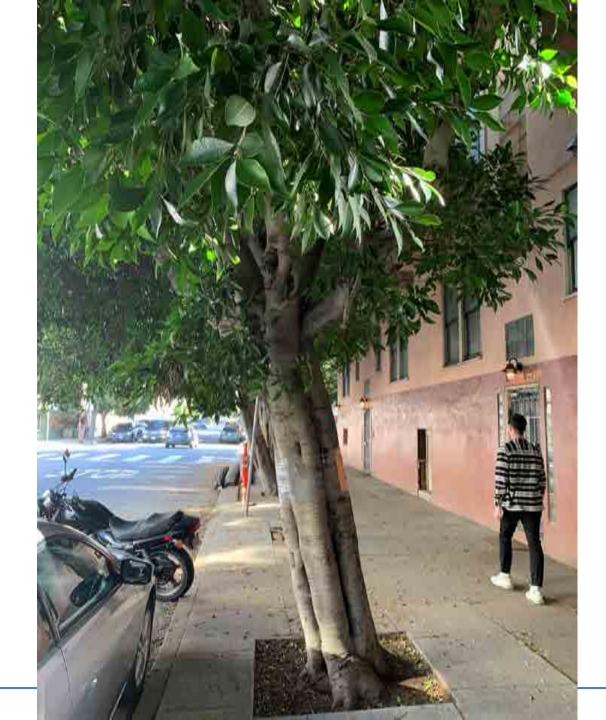




555-560 Octavia





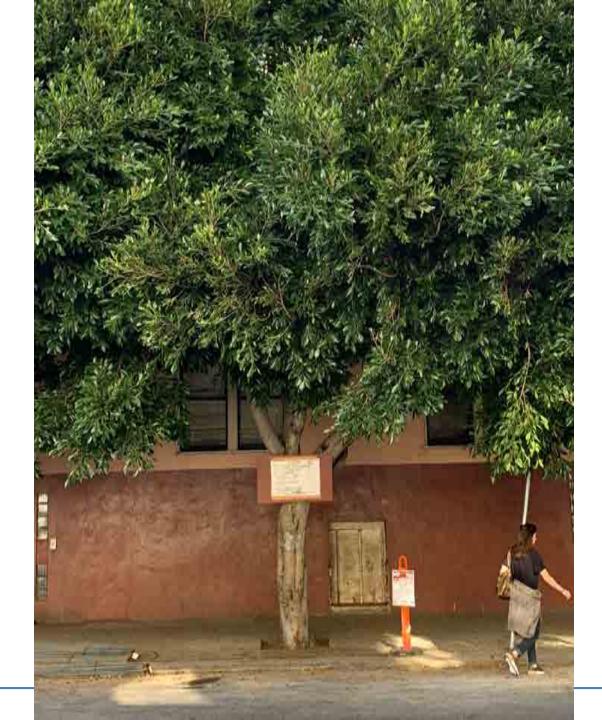




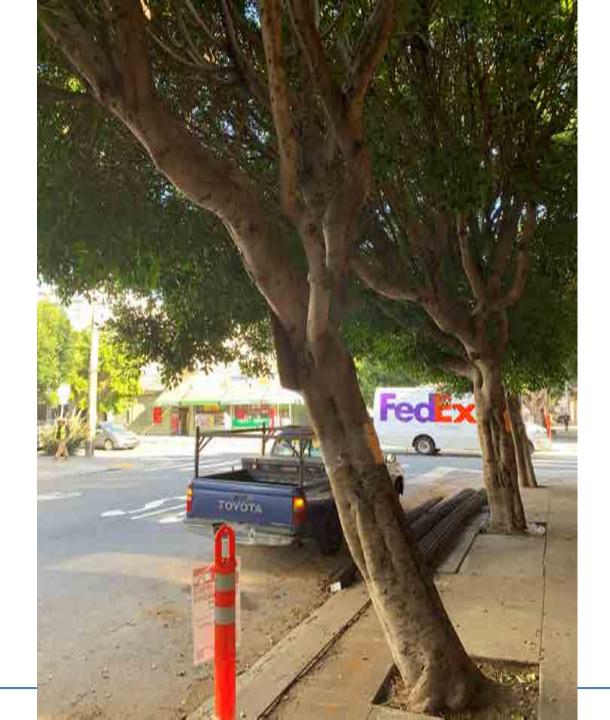




555-560 Octavia













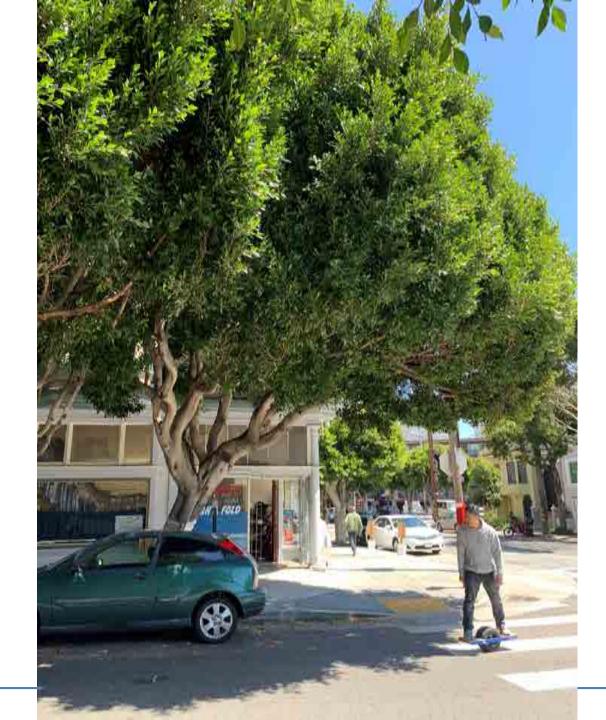




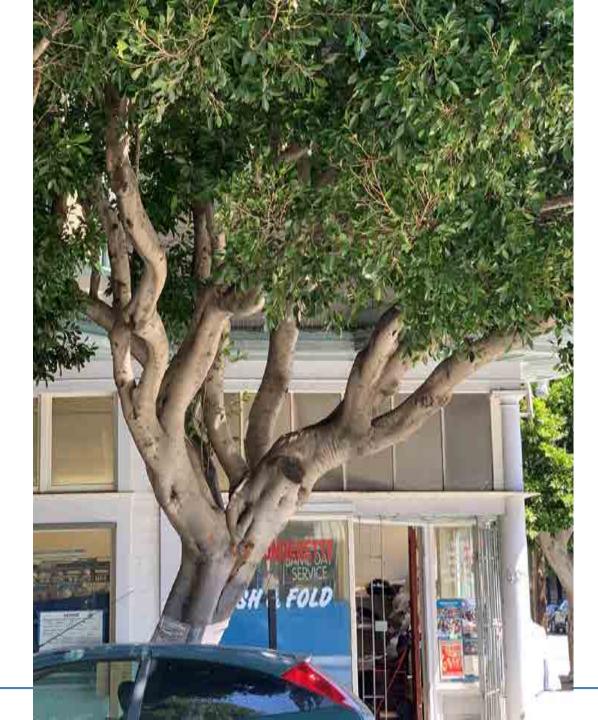
600 Octavia







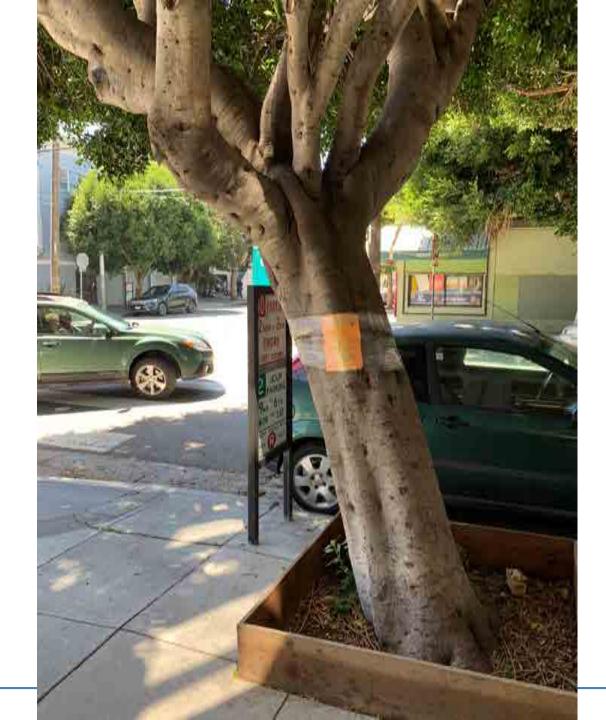








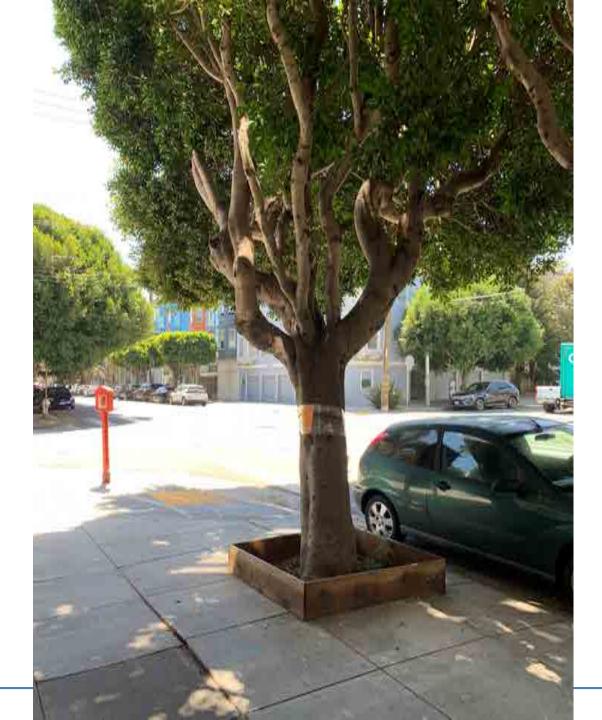






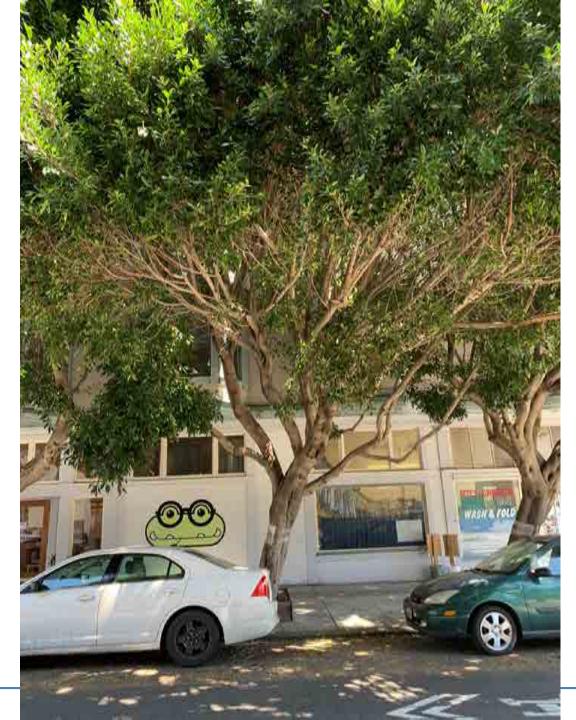




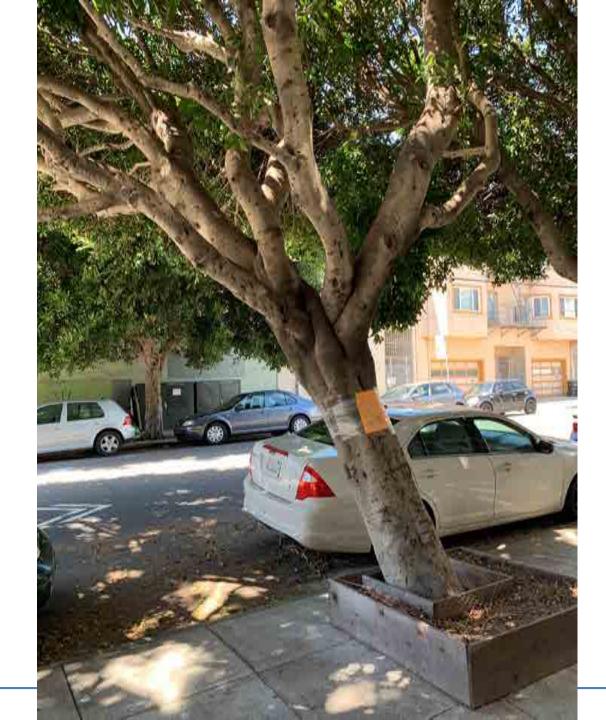




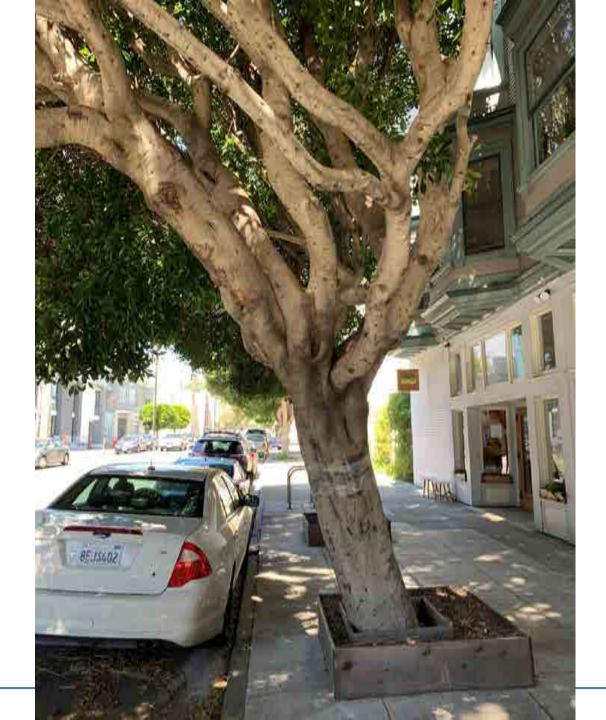
600 Octavia



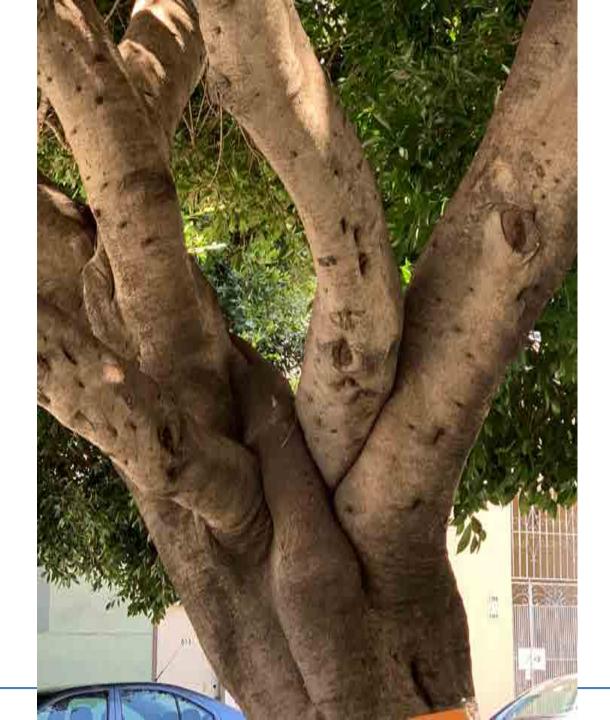














636 Octavia









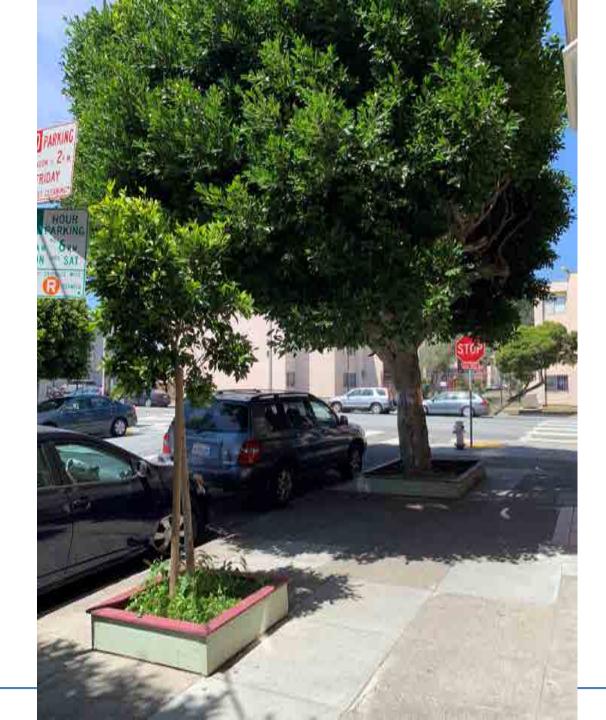




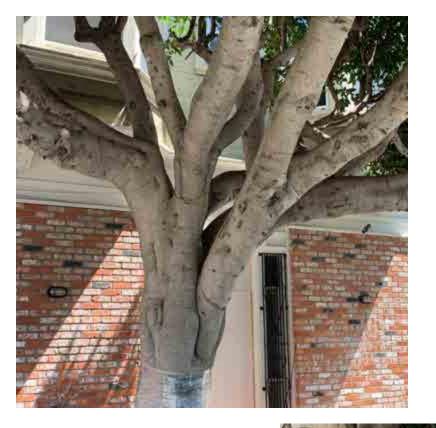


















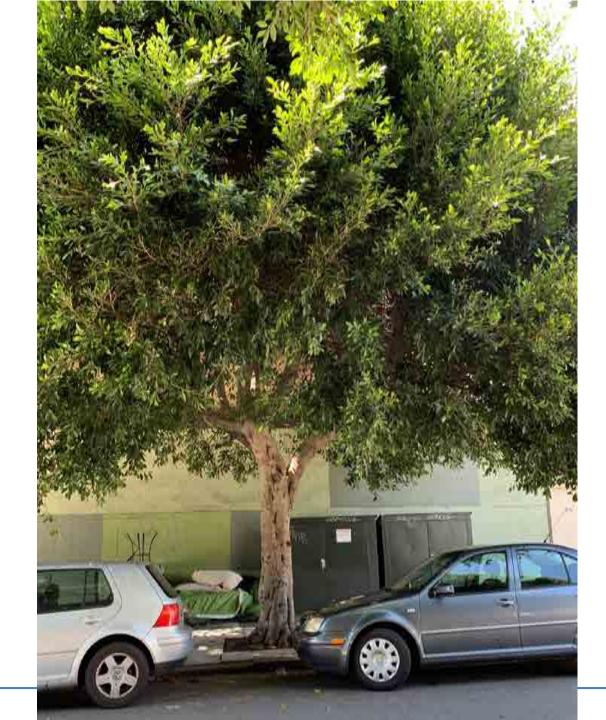








Tree no. 1

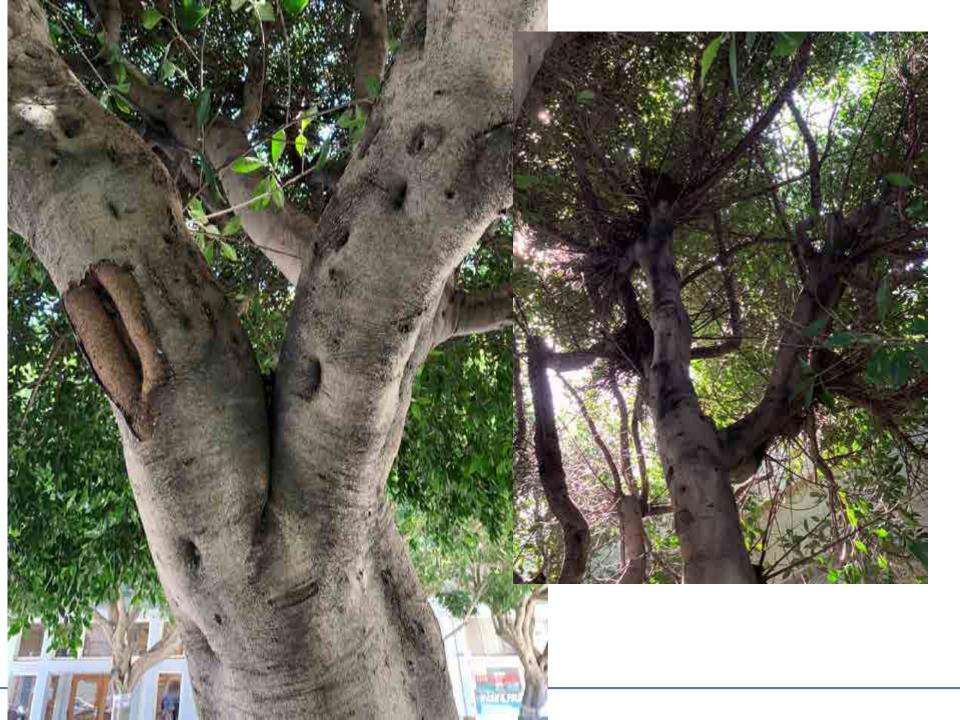




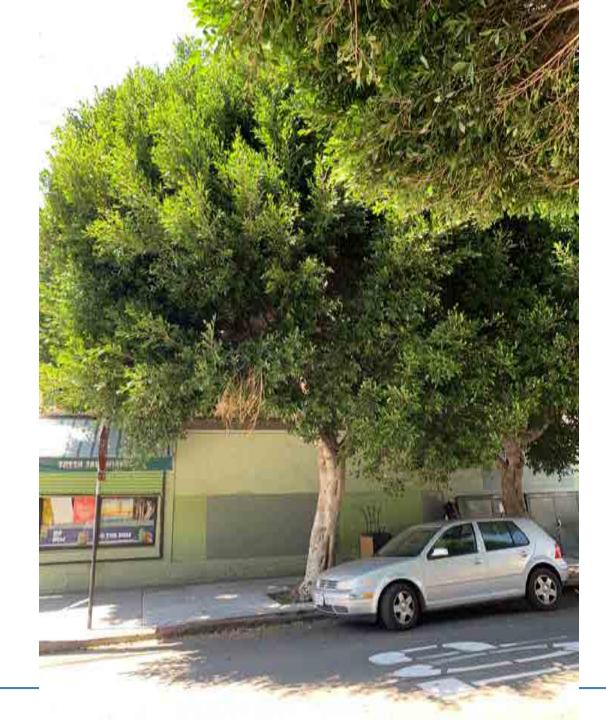








Tree no. 2









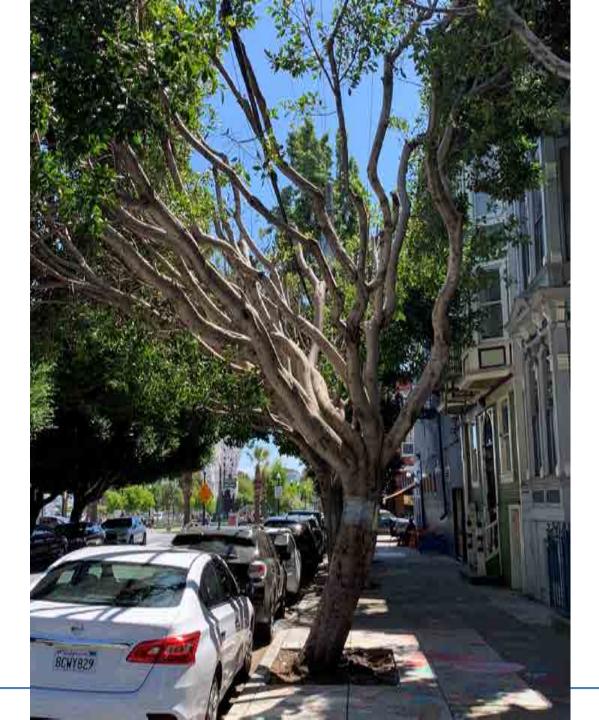










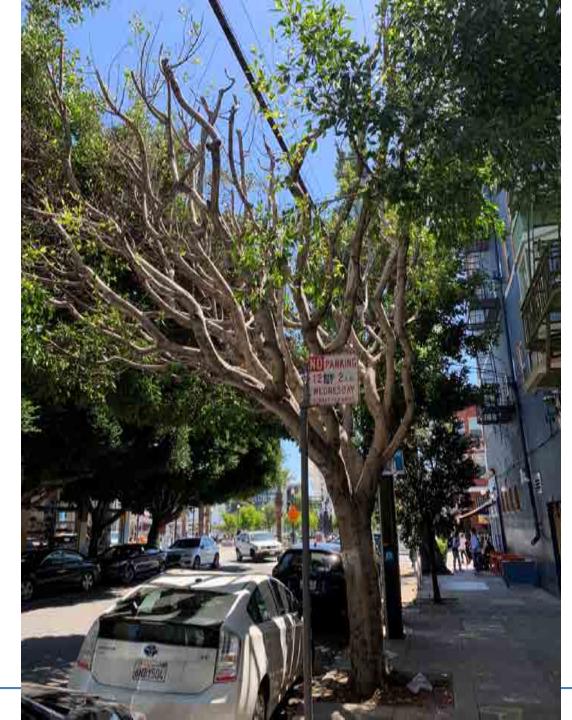






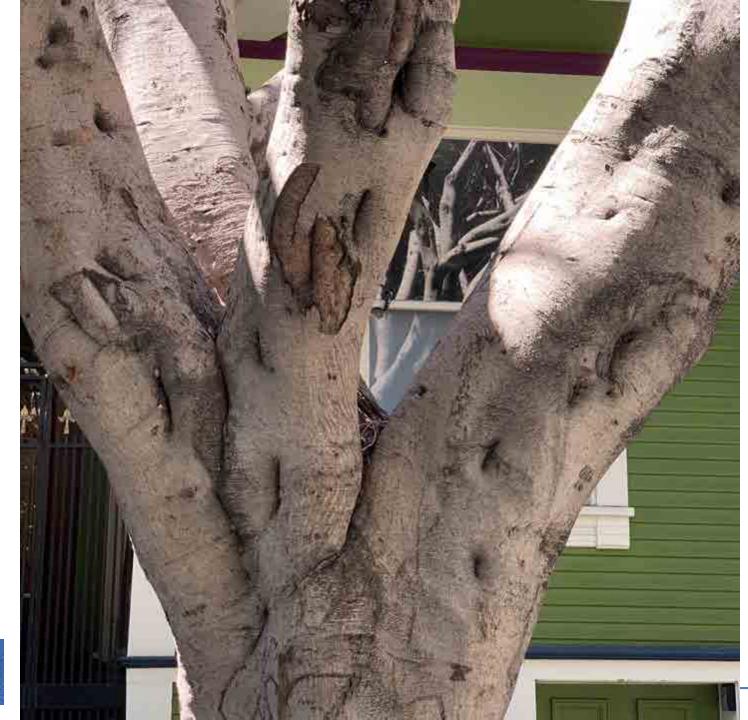






















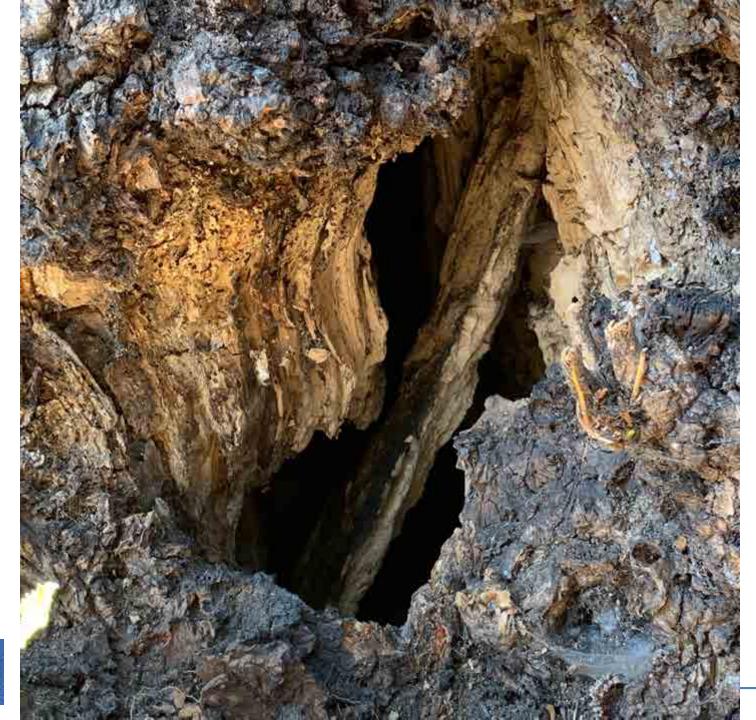








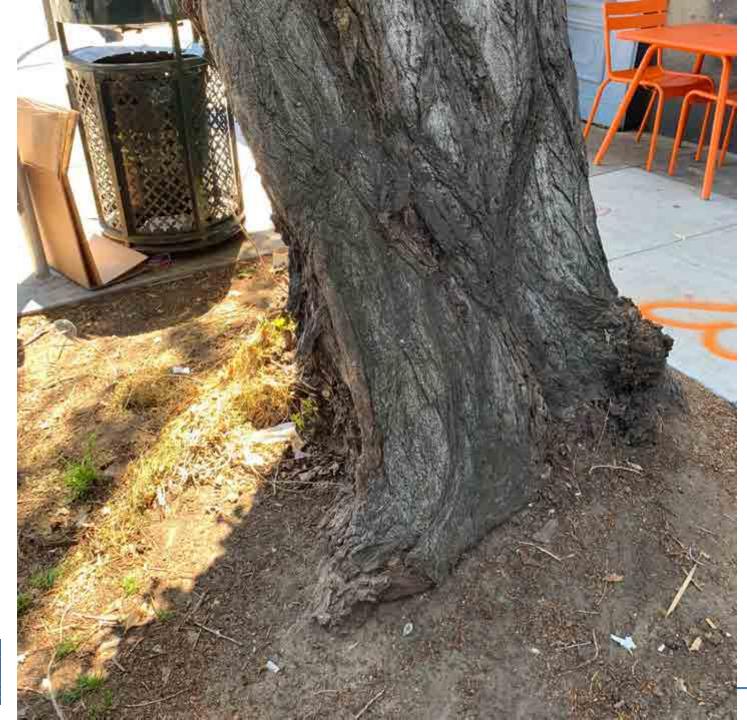


















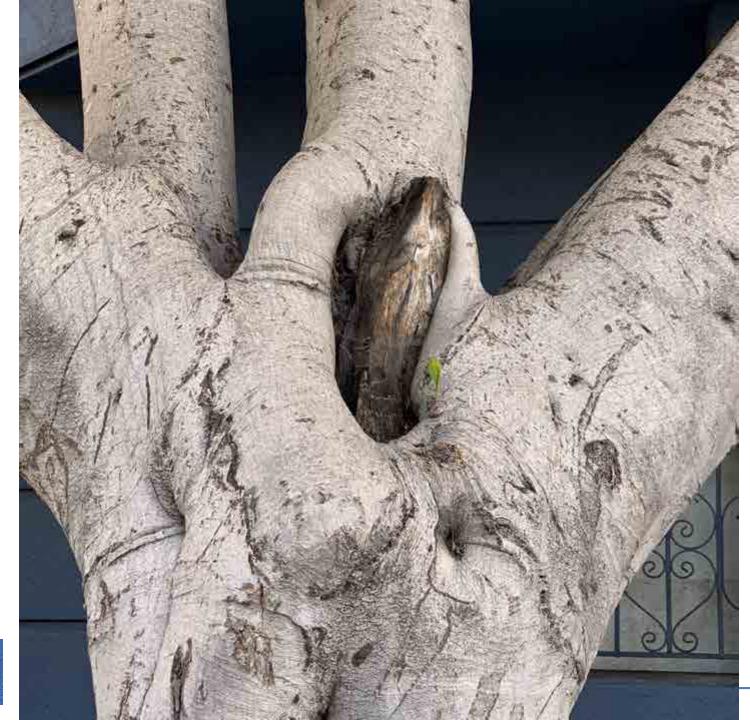






430 Hayes



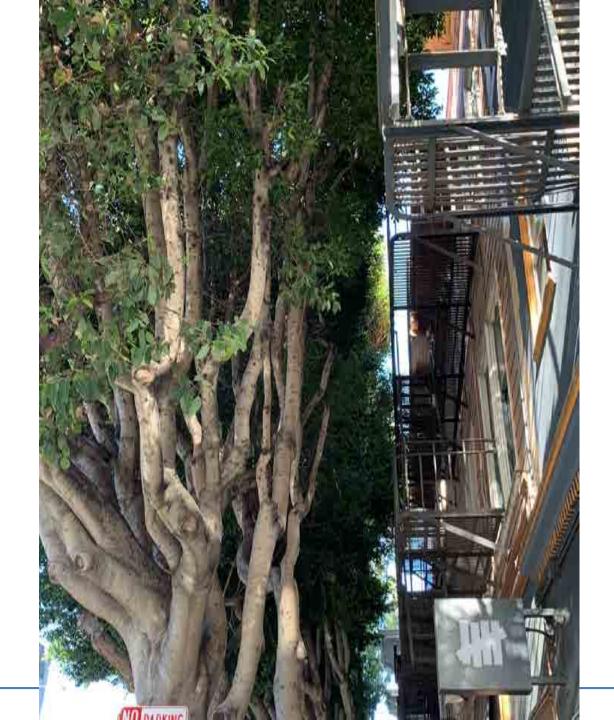






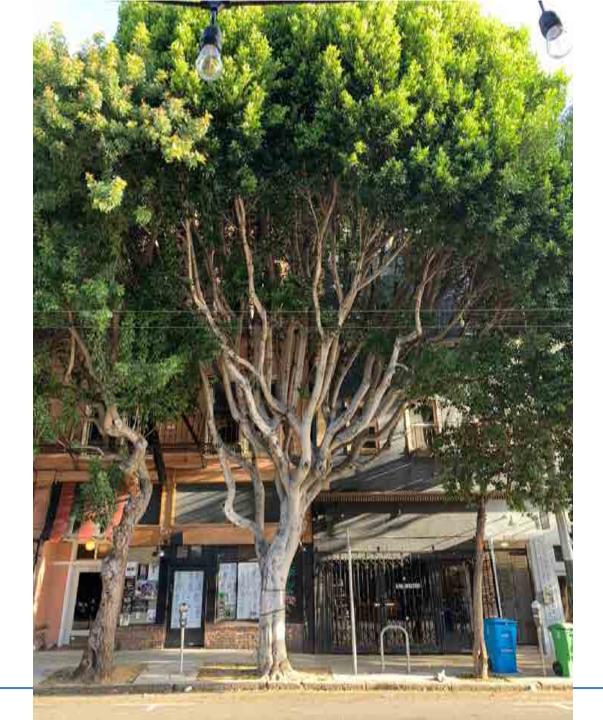








Ficus no. 1



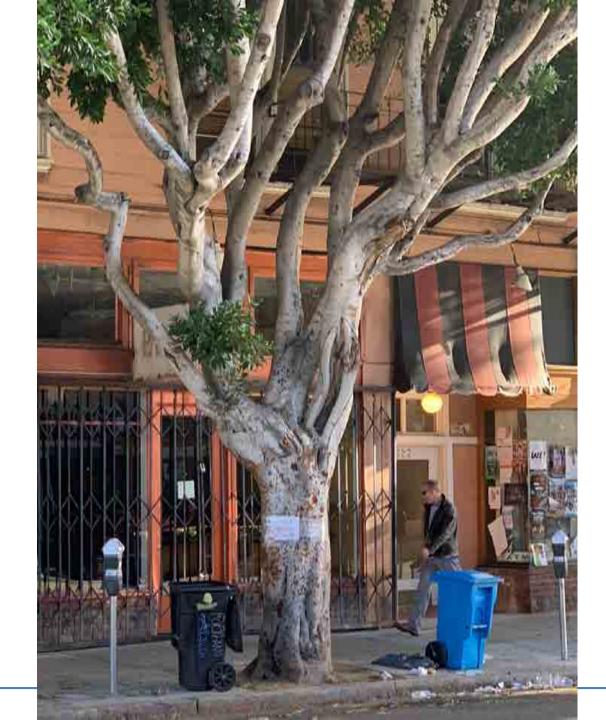






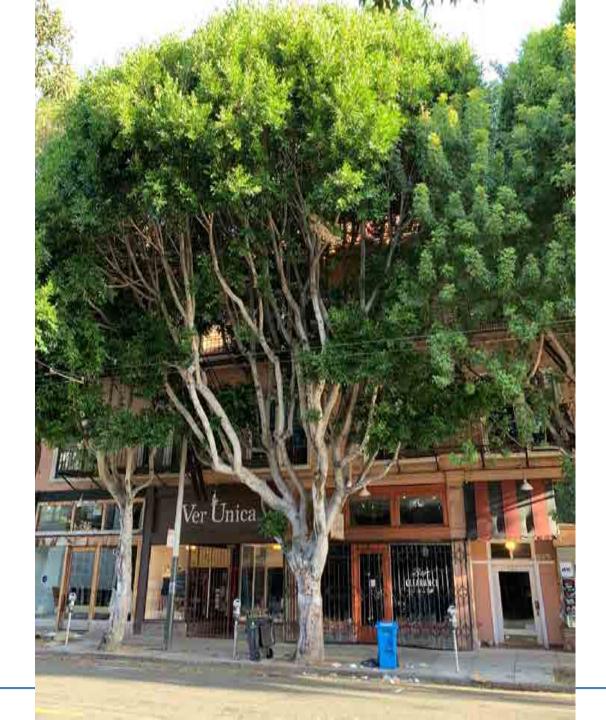








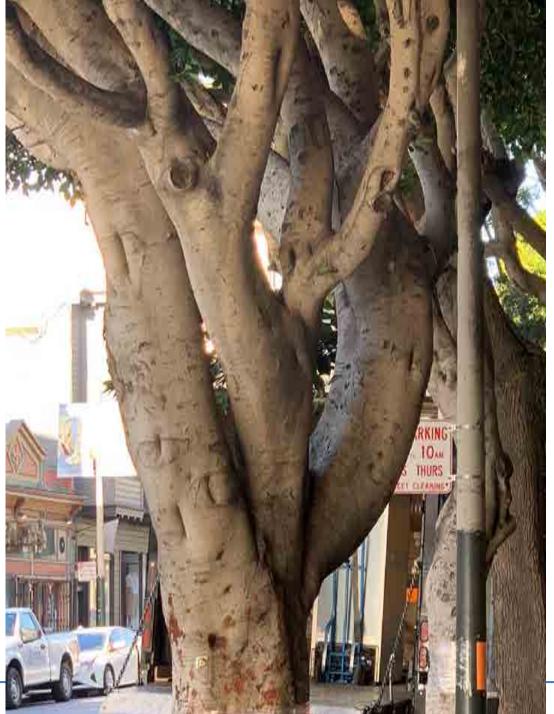
Ficus no. 2



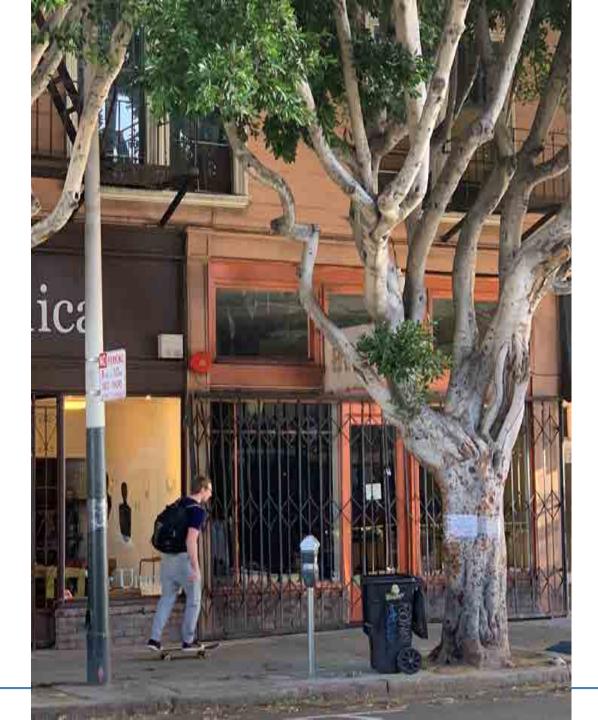














Ficus no. 3





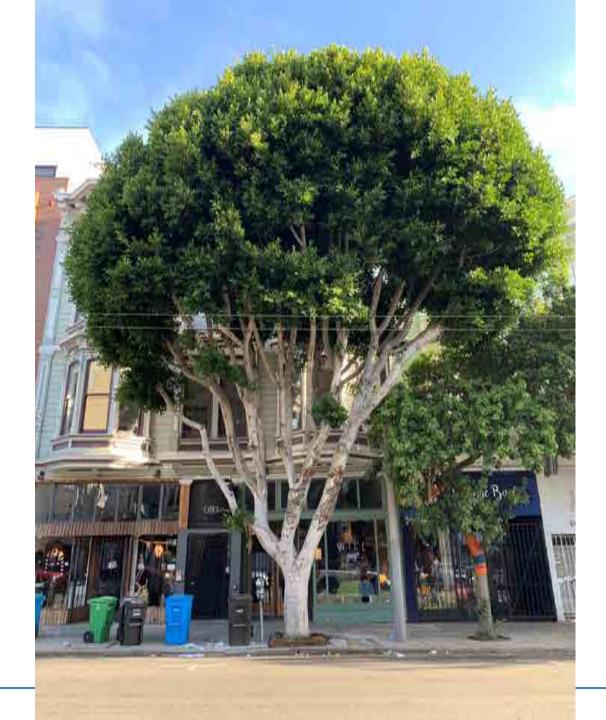




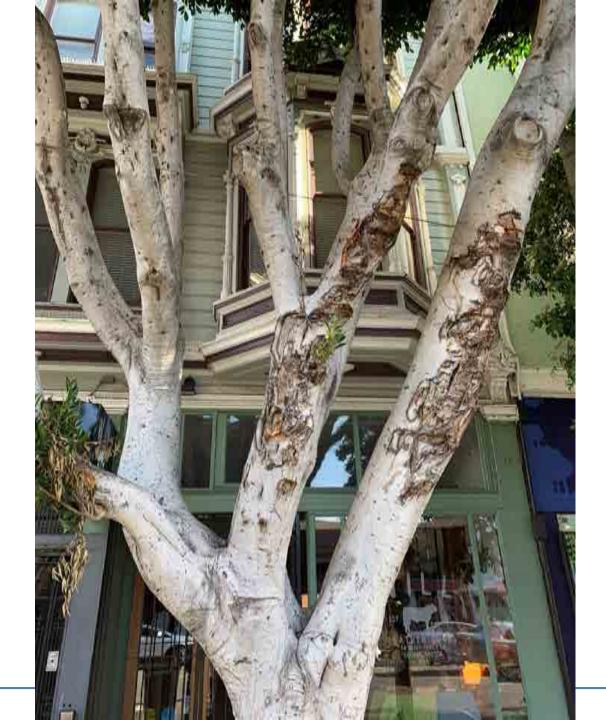








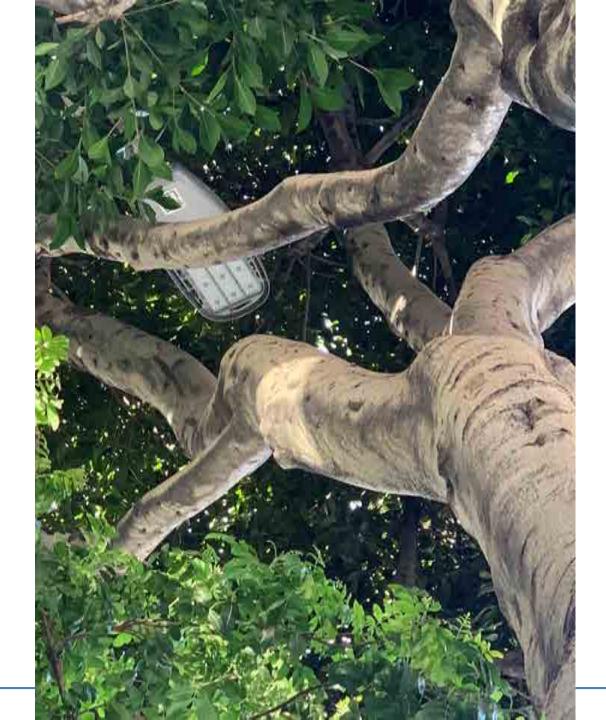
















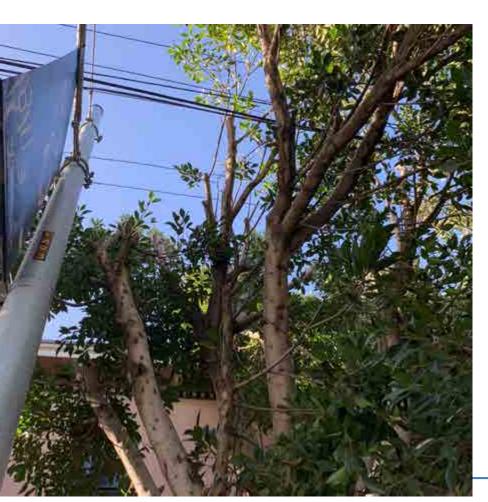




Tree 1









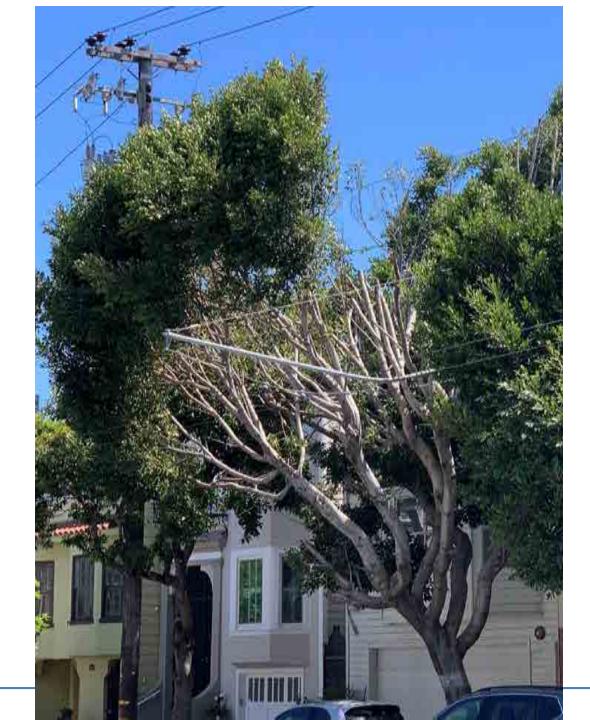




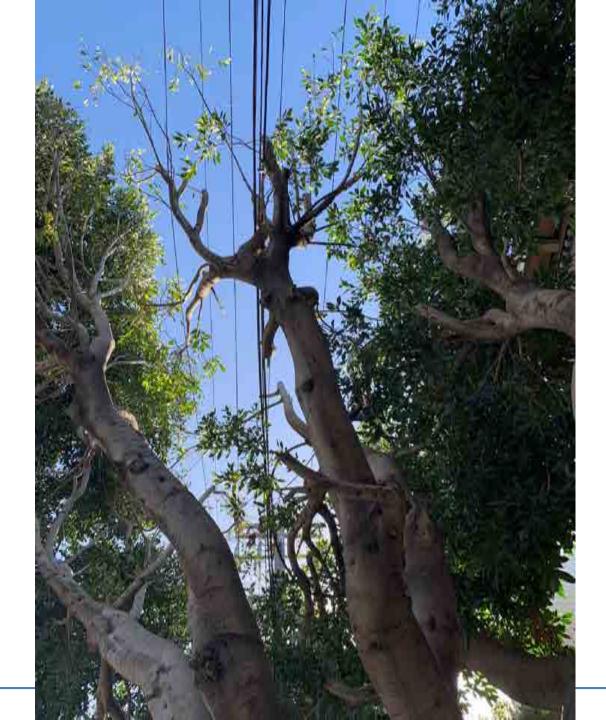
Tree 2





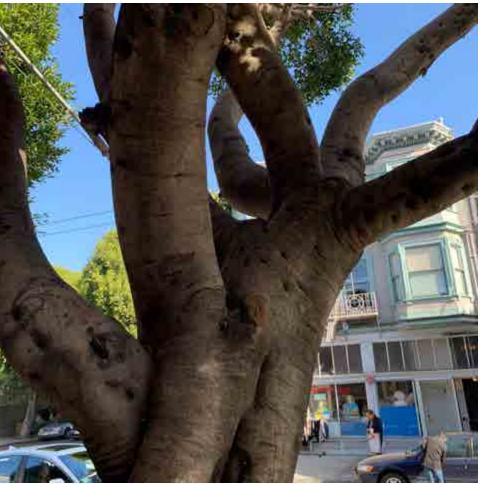






















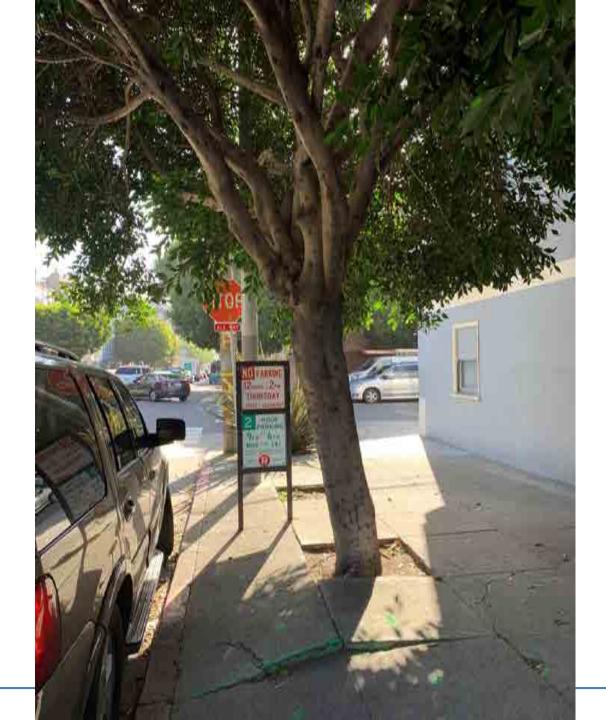




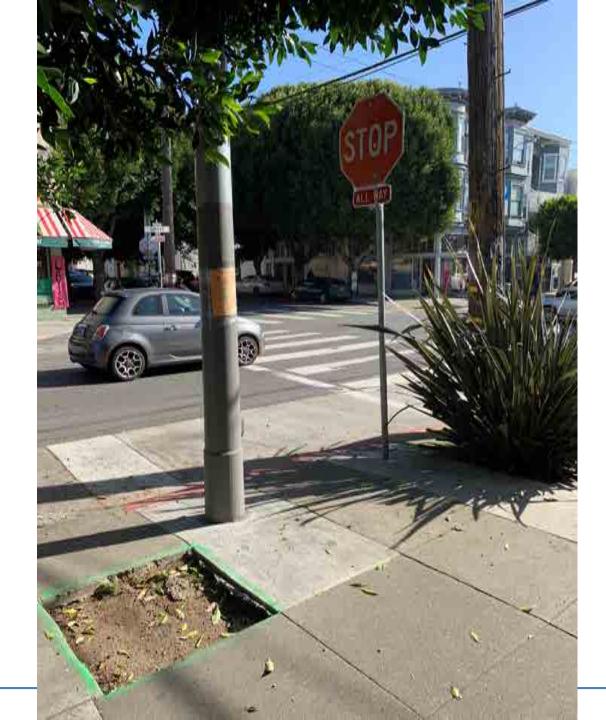








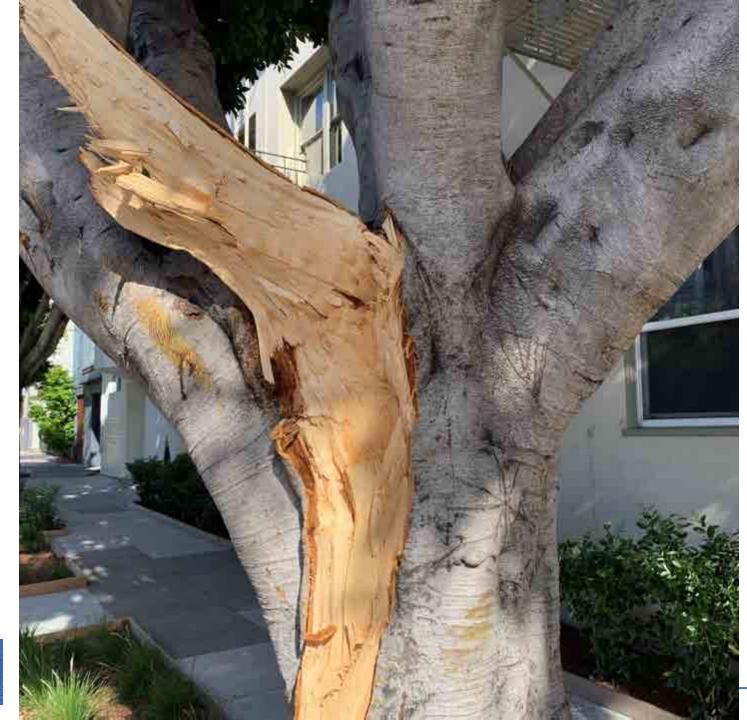












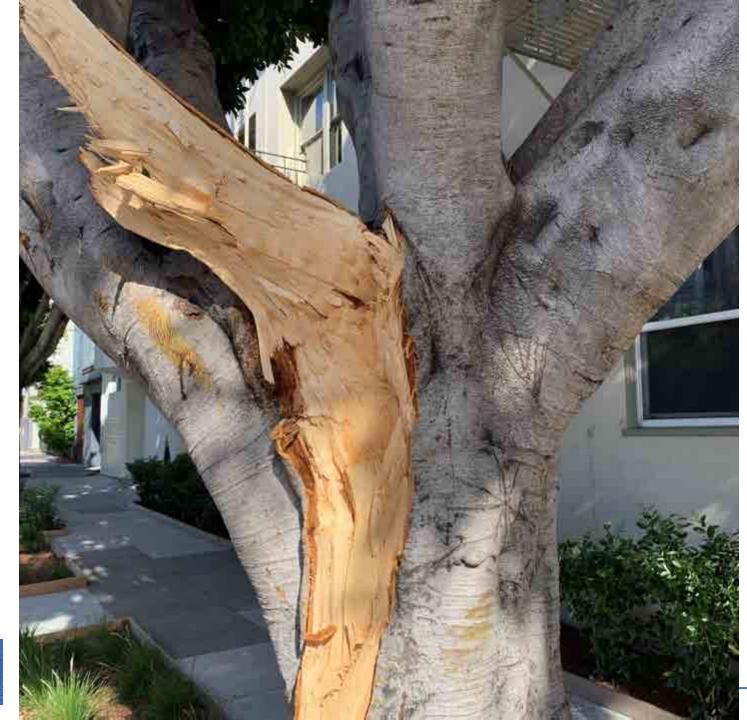














380 lvy













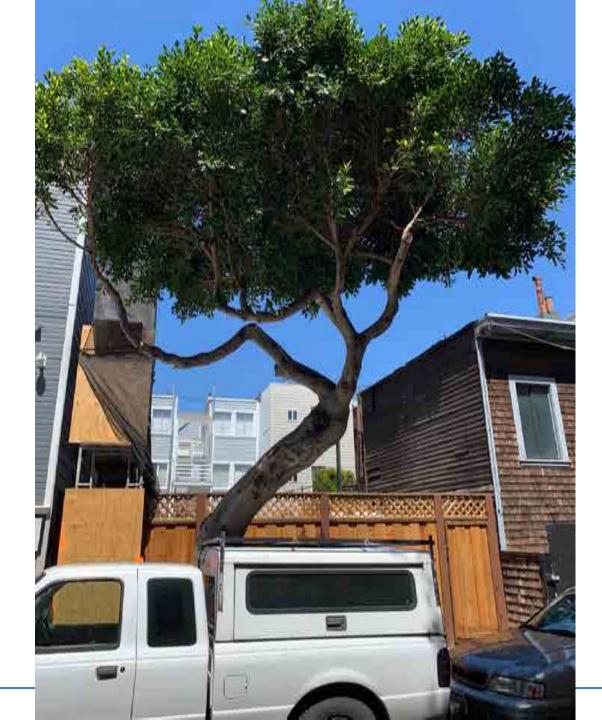




426 lvy















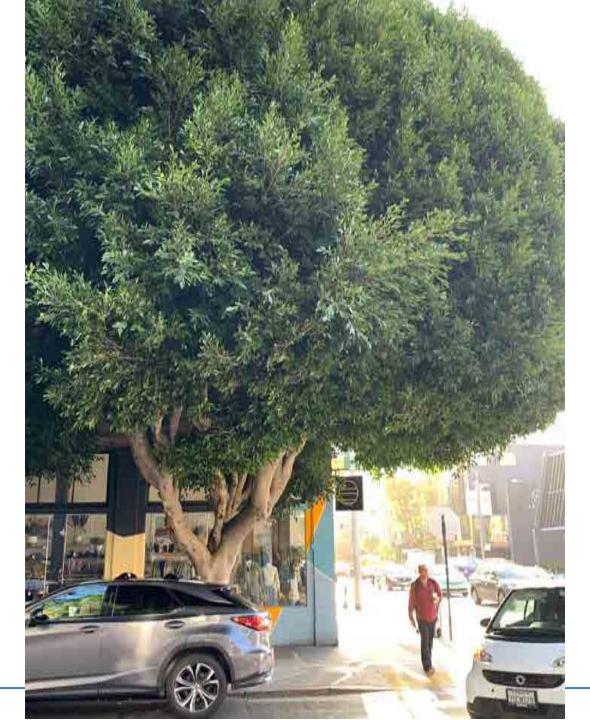




11 trees to be retained Experimental pruning



508 Octavia Tree no. 1









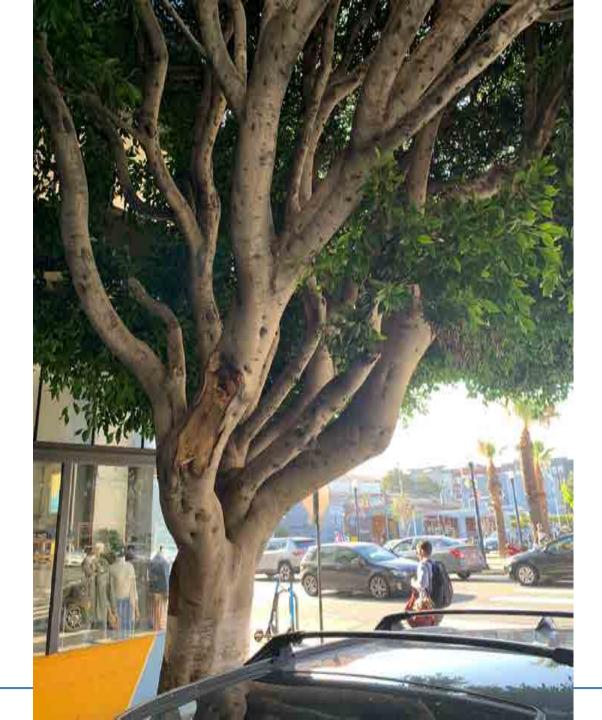






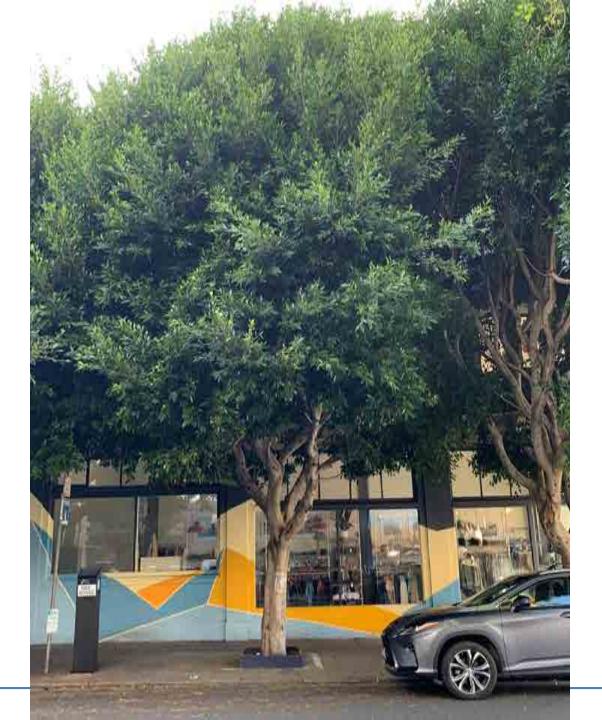




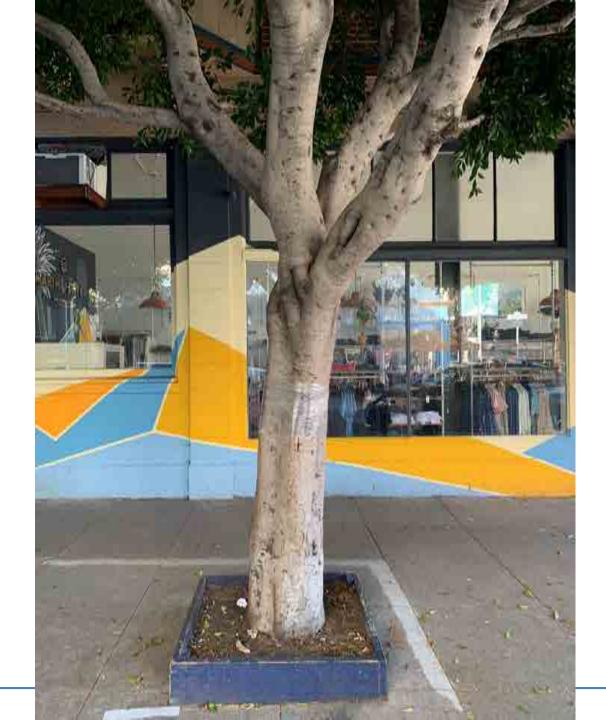




508 Octavia Tree no. 2

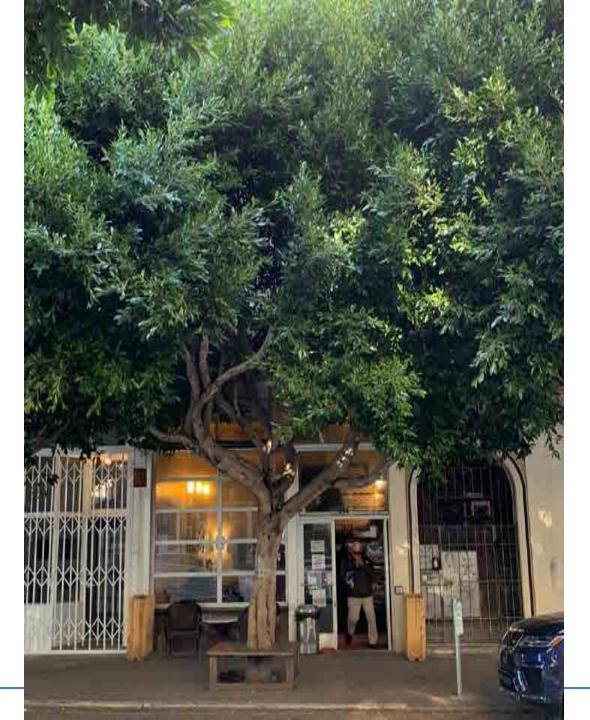








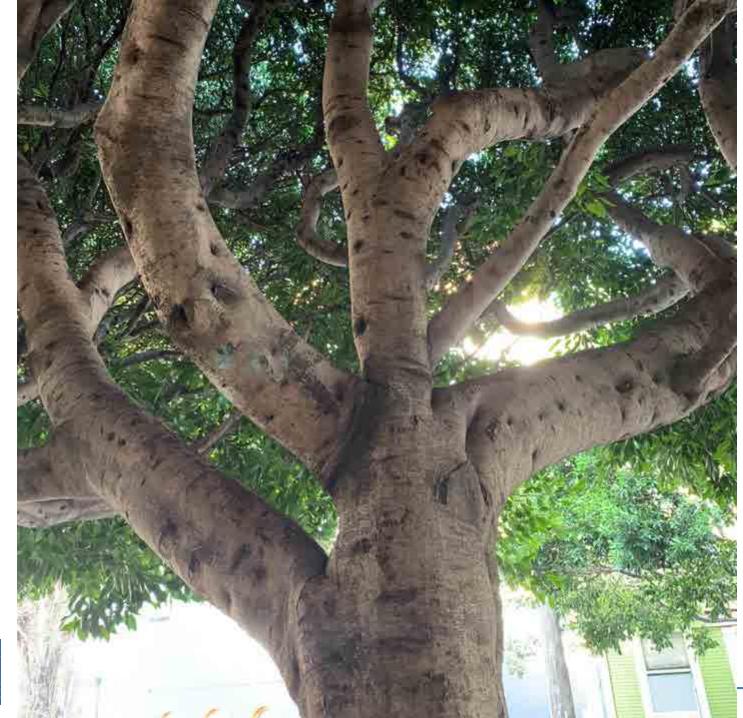
508 Octavia Tree no. 4





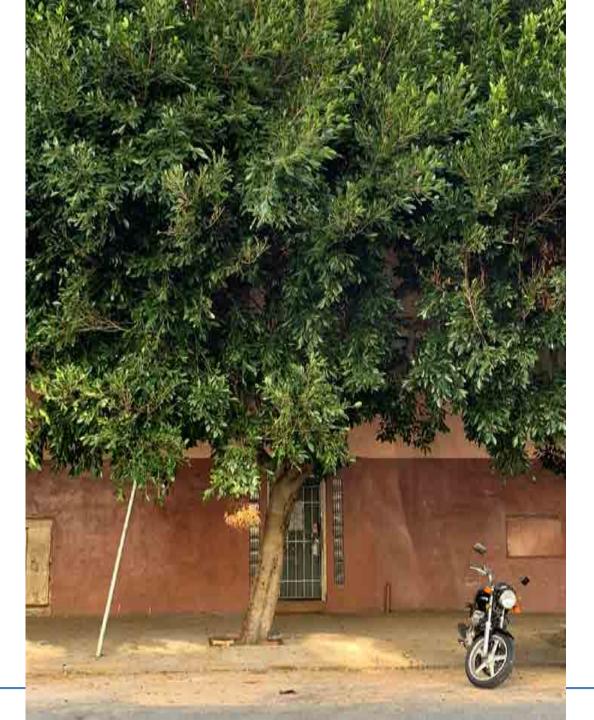




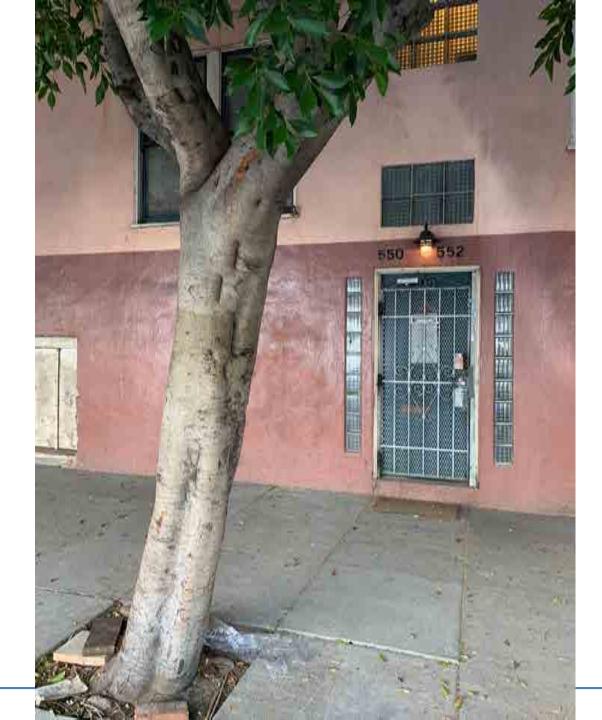




555-560 Octavia







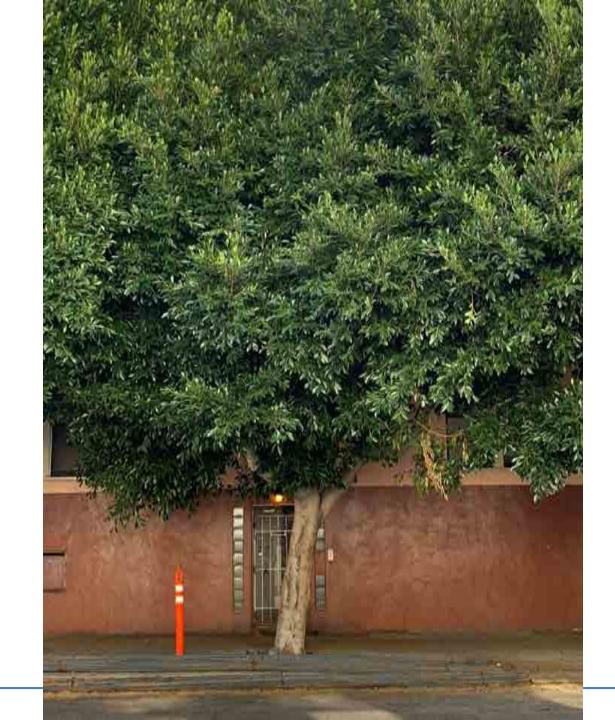




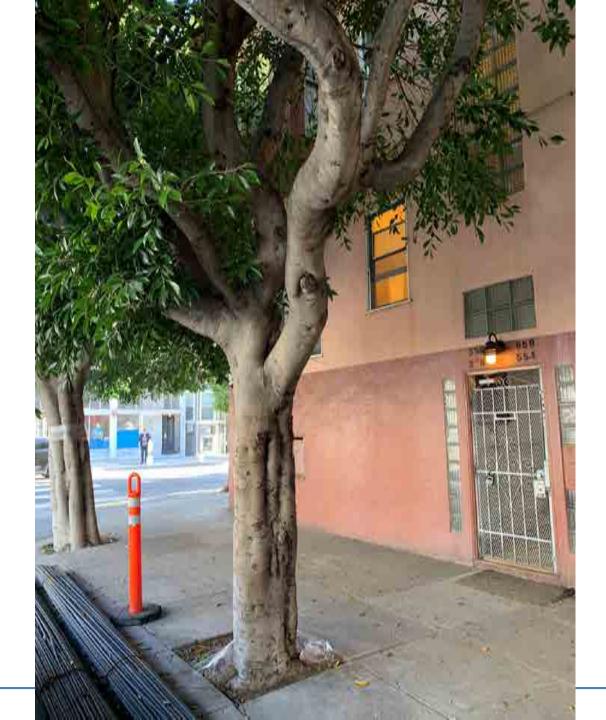




555-560 Octavia









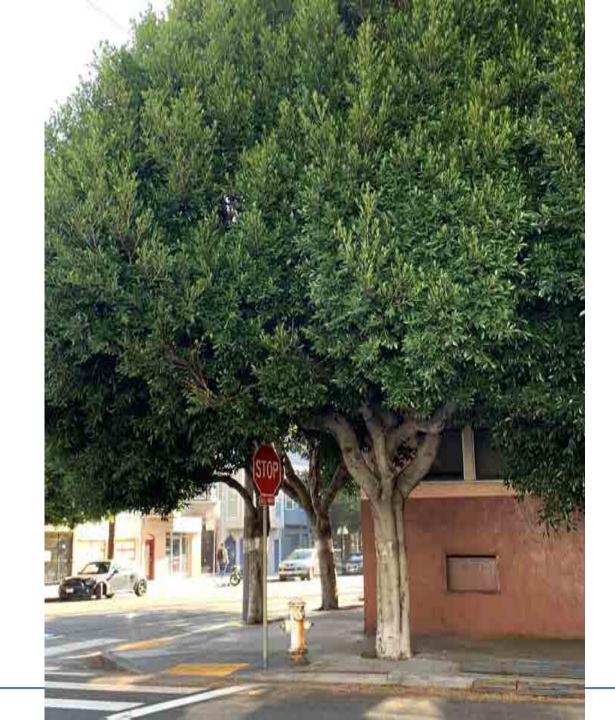




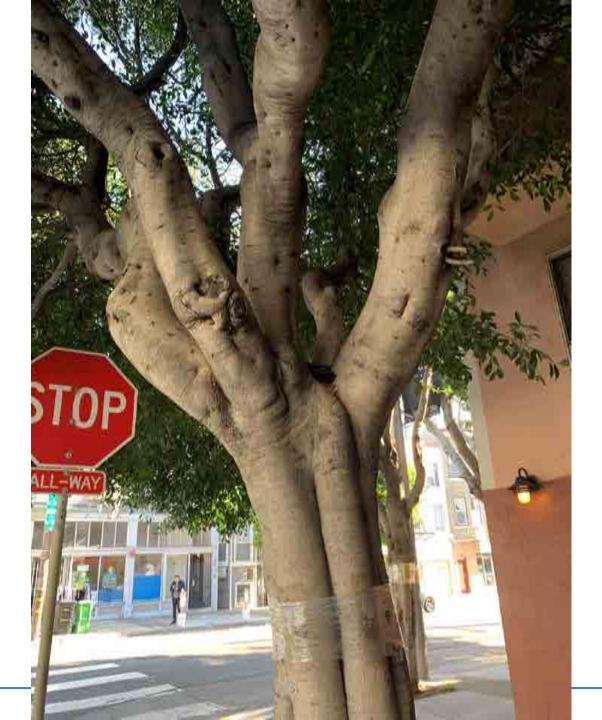




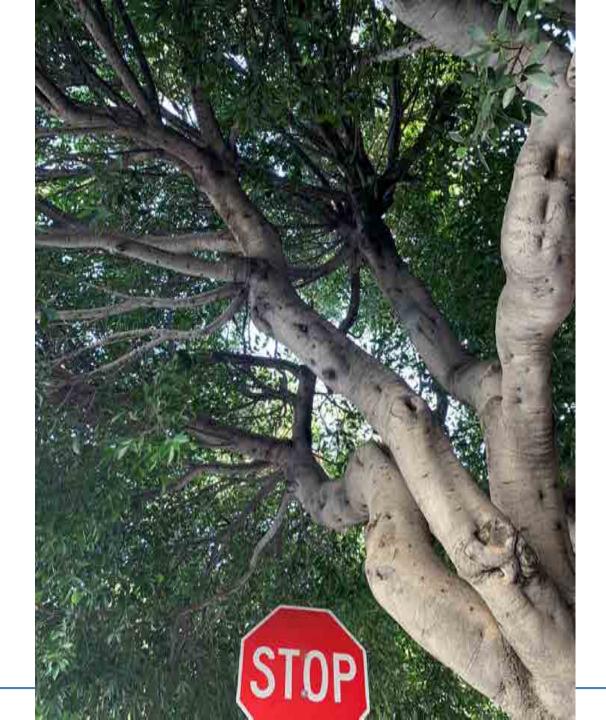
555-560 Octavia













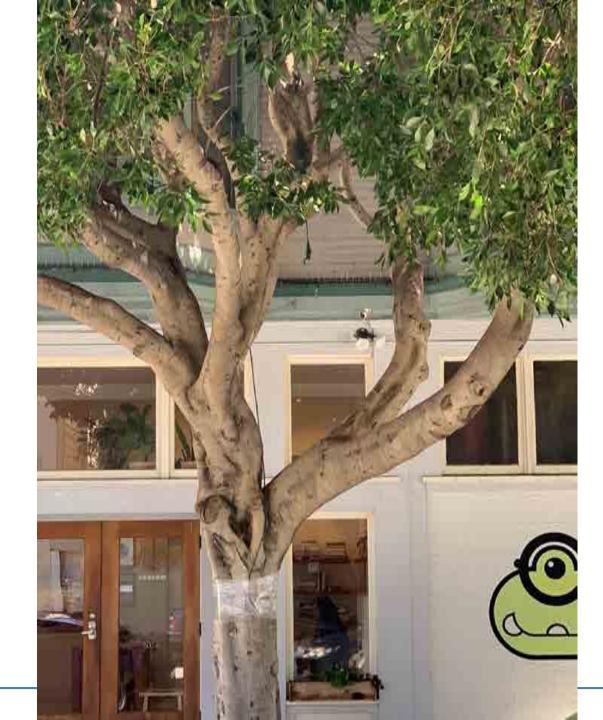




600 Octavia







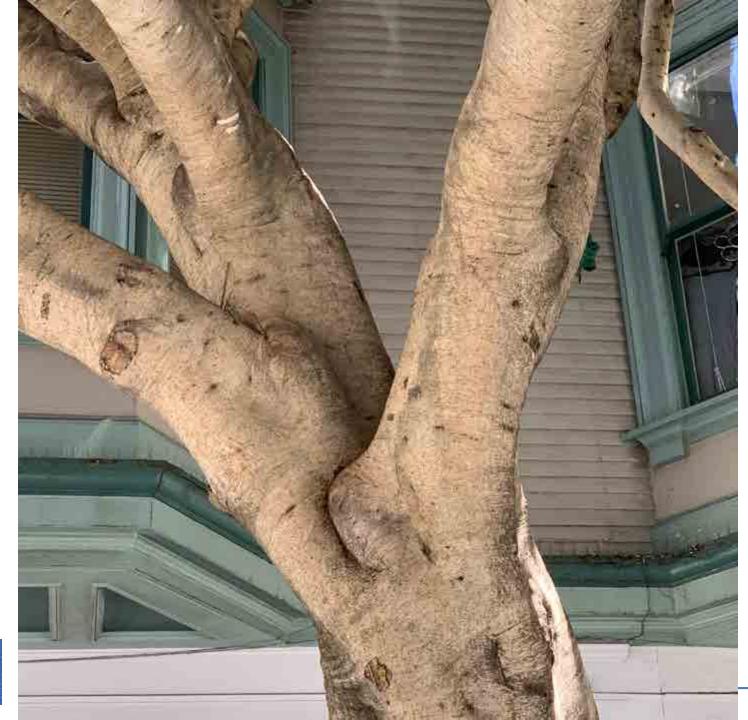














630 Octavia

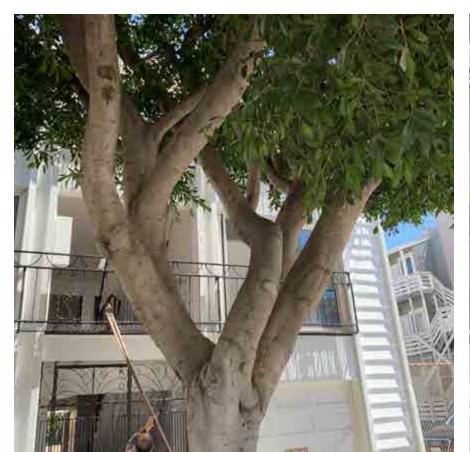
















No Replacement Due to bus zone

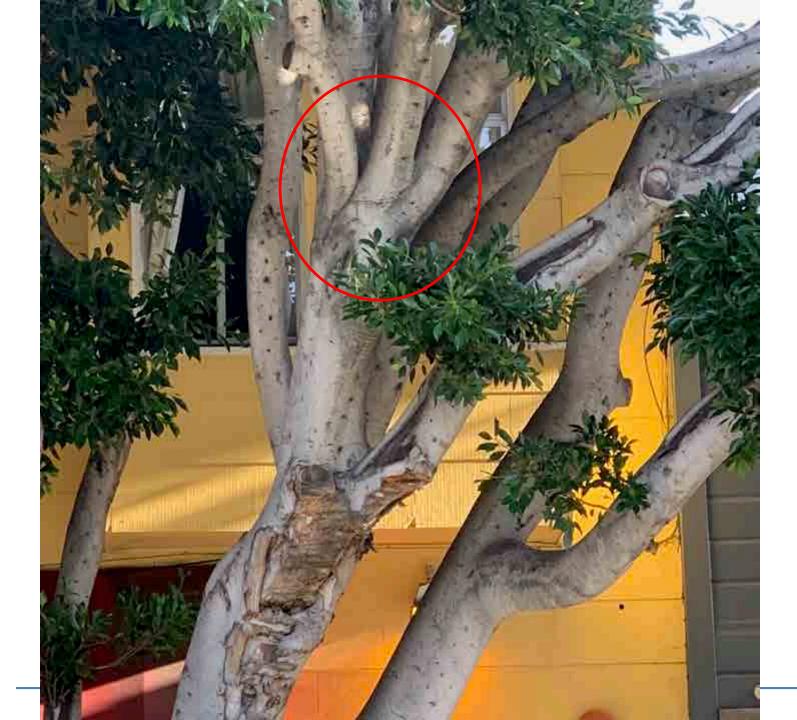




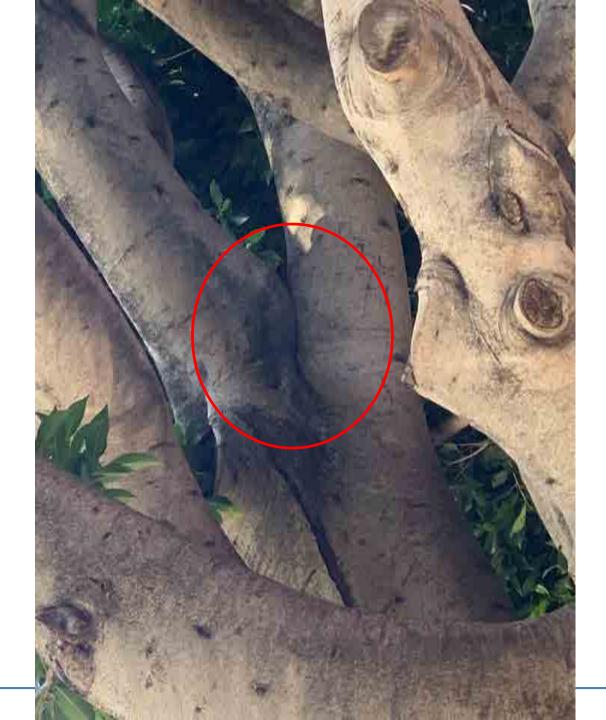


















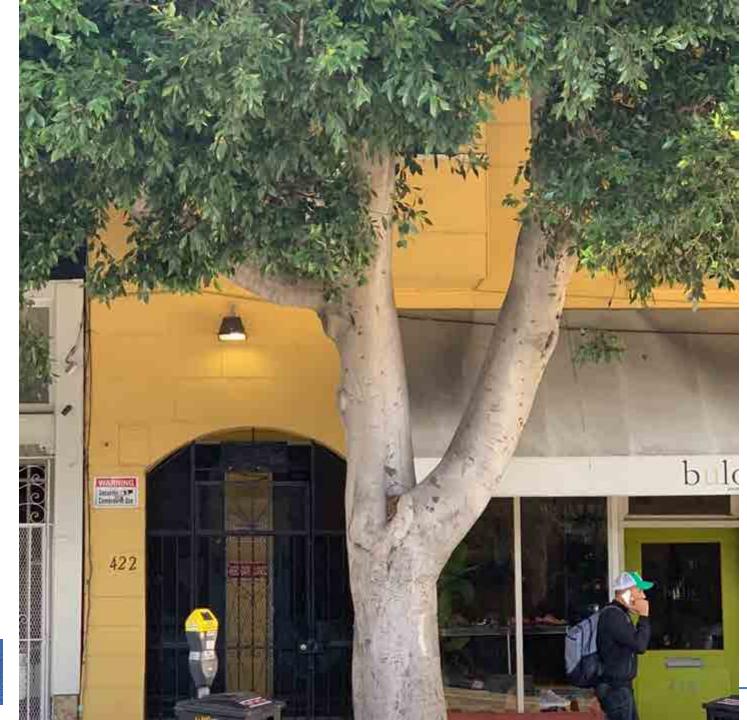














Additional information

- We are working with Friends of the Urban Forest to plant 40 empty tree basins in the immediate area
- We are in discussion re: replacement species with HVNA
- Committing to three-month turn around time from removal to replacement tree
- Includes: stump removal, sidewalk repair, shifting tree basins/cutting basins, purchasing/planting

