CITY OF LOS ANGELES
Office of Historic Resources/Cultural Heritage Commission

# HISTORIC-CULTURAL MONUMENT
# NOMINATION FORM

## 1. PROPERTY IDENTIFICATION

| | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Proposed Monument Name: **Hermitage TREES** | | | | | |
| Other Associated Names: | | | | | |
| Street Address: **5303 Hermitage Ave.** | | | Zip: **91607** | Council District: **2** | |
| Range of Addresses on Property: **12301, 12301 1/2 Weddington St.** | | | Community Name: | | |
| Assessor Parcel Number: **2347025010** | Tract: **9237** | | Block: | Lot: **9** | |
| Identification cont'd: | | | | | |
| Proposed Monument Property Type: | Building | Structure | Object | ● Site/Open Space | ● Natural Feature |
| Describe any additional resources located on the property to be included in the nomination, here: **2 Camphor Trees,** | | | | | |
| **Mulberry Tree, Crape Myrtle tree, Japanese Hackberry Trees, American Sweetgum Trees, P. orientalis, P. macrophyllus** | | | | | |

## 2. CONSTRUCTION HISTORY & CURRENT STATUS

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Year built: **1934** | ● Factual | Estimated | Threatened? **Private Development** |
| Architect/Designer: | | | Contractor: |
| Original Use: | | | Present Use: |
| Is the Proposed Monument on its Original Site? | ● Yes | No (explain in section 7) | Unknown (explain in section 7) |

## 3. STYLE & MATERIALS

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Architectural Style: | | Stories: | Plan Shape: |

| *FEATURE* | *PRIMARY* | *SECONDARY* |
|---|---|---|
| CONSTRUCTION | Type: | Type: |
| CLADDING | Material: | Material: |
| ROOF | Type: | Type: |
| | Material: | Material: |
| WINDOWS | Type: | Type: |
| | Material: | Material: |
| ENTRY | Style: | Style: |
| DOOR | Type: | Type: |

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## 4. ALTERATION HISTORY

| List date and write a brief description of any major alterations or additions. This section may also be completed on a separate document. Include copies of permits in the nomination packet. Make sure to list any major alterations for which there are no permits, as well. | |
|---|---|
| | **N/A** |
| | |
| | |
| | |
| | |
| | |
| | |
| | |

## 5. EXISTING HISTORIC RESOURCE IDENTIFICATION (if known)

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| | Listed in the National Register of Historic Places | |
| | Listed in the California Register of Historical Resources | |
| | Formally determined eligible for the National and/or California Registers | |
| | Located in an Historic Preservation Overlay Zone (HPOZ) | Contributing feature<br>Non-contributing feature |
| | Determined eligible for national, state, or local landmark status by an historic resources survey(s) | Survey Name(s): |
| Other historical or cultural resource designations: | | |

## 6. APPLICABLE HISTORIC-CULTURAL MONUMENT CRITERIA

| The proposed monument exemplifies the following Cultural Heritage Ordinance Criteria (Section 22.171.7): | |
|---|---|
| ✓ | Reflects the broad cultural, economic, or social history of the nation, state, or community |
| | Is identified with historic personages or with important events in the main currents of national, state, or local history |
| ✓ | Embodies the distinguising characteristics of an architectural-type specimen, inherently valuable for study of a period, style, or method of construction |
| | A notable work of a master builder, designer, or architect whose individual genius influenced his or her age |

# HISTORIC-CULTURAL MONUMENT
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## 7. WRITTEN STATEMENTS **See enclosure #1**

*This section allows you to discuss at length the significance of the proposed monument and why it should be designated an Historic-Cultural Monument. Type your response on separate documents and attech them to this form.*

**A. Proposed Monument Description -** Describe the proposed monument's physical characteristics and relationship to its surrounding environment. Expand on sections 2 and 3 with a more detailed description of the site. Expand on section 4 and discuss the construction/alteration history in detail if that is necessary to explain the proposed monument's current form. Identify and describe any character-defining elements, structures, interior spaces, or landscape features.

**B. Statement of Significance -** Address the proposed monument's historic, cultural, and/or architectural significance by discussing how it satisfies the HCM criteria you selected in Section 6. You must support your argument with substantial evidence and analysis. The Statement of Significance is your main argument for designation so it is important to substantiate any claims you make with supporting documentation and research.

## 8. CONTACT INFORMATION

***Applicant***

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Name: **Aimee Frappied** | | Company: | |
| Street Address: **263 W Olive Ave. #159** | | City: **Burbank** | State: **CA** |
| Zip: **91506** | Phone Number: **(818) 800-8462** | Email: **aimeefrappied@gmail.com** | |

***Property Owner*** Is the owner in support of the nomination? Yes No Unknown

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Name: | | Company: | |
| Street Address: | | City: | State: |
| Zip: | Phone Number: | Email: | |

***Nomination Preparer/Applicant's Representative***

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Name: | | Company: | |
| Street Address: | | City: | State: **CA** |
| Zip: | Phone Number: | Email: | |

# HISTORIC-CULTURAL MONUMENT
# NOMINATION FORM

## 9. SUBMITTAL

When you have completed preparing your nomination, compile all materials in the order specified below. Although the entire packet must not exceed 100 pages, you may send additional material on a CD or flash drive.

APPLICATION CHECKLIST

1. Nomination Form
2. Written Statements A and B
3. Bibliography
4. Two Primary Photos of Exterior/Main Facade (8x10, the main photo of the proposed monument. Also email a digitial copy of the main photo to: planning.ohr@lacity.org)
5. Copies of Primary/Secondary Documentation
6. Copies of Building Permits for Major Alterations (include first construction permits)
7. Additional, Contemporary Photos
8. Historical Photos
9. Zimas Parcel Report for all Nominated Parcels (including map)

## 10. RELEASE

| Please read each statement and check the corresponding boxes to indicate that you agree with the statement, then sign below in the provided space. Either the applicant or preparer may sign. | |
|---|---|
| ✓ | I acknowledge that all documents submitted will become public records under the California Public Records Act, and understand that the documents will be made available upon request to members of the public for inspection and copying. |
| ✓ | I acknowledge that all photographs and images submitted as part of this application will become the property of the City of Los Angeles, and understand that permission is granted for use of the photographs and images by the City without any expectation of compensation. |
| ✓ | I acknowledge that I have the right to submit or have obtained the appropriate permission to submit all information contained in this application. |

Name: Date: Signature:

Mail your Historic-Cultural Monument Submittal to the Office of Historic Resources.

Office of Historic Resources
Department of City Planning
200 N. Spring Street, Room 620
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Phone: 213-978-1200
Website: preservation.lacity.org

**enclosure #1**

# HISTORIC-CULTURAL MONUMENT
# NOMINATION FORM

**#7. WRITTEN STATEMENTS**

## A. PURPOSED MONUMENT DESCRIPTION

Existing on The Hermitage Property is a variety of flora and fauna that has been the most reliable and dependable source for local wildlife, beneficial insects our & community.
2 Camphor Trees over 80 years old & over 60 feet tall.
Amongst the open space landscape there are Crape Myrtle Trees, Japanese Hackberry, Podocarpus macrophyllus (yew pine), Camellia trees, Oleander, American Sweetgum & BottleBrush tree's that all thrive in their originally planted location, decades ago.

## B. STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE (also see attached)

The Hermitage Trees meet the criteria of the *broad cultural, economic or social history of the nation, State or community.* This is *reflected* ***&*** *exemplified* through the time periods in which it they survived & continue to provide beneficial elements to our residents, neighbors, passerby's & wildlife.
Existing Camphor Trees over 80 years old and over 60 feet tall continue to provide homes, food & habitats to dozens of species of birds, squirrels, & beneficial insects. There have been at least 4 (as of the date on this application) sightings of 2 birds listed State & Federal Endangered Species Lists.
These trees have the ability to reach more than 500 years old & are considered legends in other countries.
Amongst agricultural & biological significance, our older & mature trees continue to provide oxygen by their ability to absorb larger amounts of carbon dioxide than newly planted trees.
The existing vast root system is depended on by the Soil Food Web (see attached documentation). The nutrient cycling and disease suppression needed by trees & plants occurs immediately adjacent to roots.

The Camphor trees exist on the north west corner of what we believe to be a historically significant property known as, The Hermitage Property. Previously submitted documentation will indicate this property being 1 of the first 4 parcels to be erected in the early 1930's. Owner built by the same family who owned & built the first 3 on Hermitage Ave., between Magnolia and Chandler Blvd. The property has existed as a nucleus of the neighborhood since the 1930's. Bringing neighbors and families together. Used as the local voting location & local activities & events, the trees remain a large contributor in uniting our community.
Old vintage photos will indicate the camphor trees in their beginning stages of growth. Since the time of those photos, they have survived snow storms, the Los Angeles Flood of 1938 (deemed the fifth largest flood in history),[1] earthquakes & other natural disasters in the city, when others failed.

Over 90% of homes & buildings on Hermitage Ave. were constructed as early as the 1930's up until the 1970's. Some with originally existing landscape & some not. The Camphor trees are 2 of the oldest & largest trees on the block.

Designating these trees and its root system is designating important time periods that we depend on, to connect us & link us to our past.
It continues to provide home to the birds, shade to our neighbors and community, & views from our windows that aid in emotional challenges. Designation contributes to the solution in our city rather than the problem.
**They are attractive to bees, butterflies, birds and beneficial insects. They are also known for their strong ability to withstand urban pollution**.[2]

Please see attached documentation and enclosures for a more detailed description of the trees and how they are significant to the community and culture.

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[1] The History of the Los Angeles River". L.A. River Connection. Archived from the original on 2007-06-11.
[2] *Michelle Wishhart Portland, Ore UC Santa Cruz.*

# Camphor Tree

Family: Lauraceae
Genus: Cinnamomum
Species: C. camphora

## FACTS

- Introduced to the contiguous United States around 1875, *C. camphora* escaped cultivation and became a naturalized species in southern California.
- An evergreen tropical tree growing into a shade tree upwards of **45 to 60 feet tall** can be nearly as **wide as 100 feet** in their natural range, according to Robert Lee Riffle in "The Tropical Look."
- Related to true cinnamon trees that provide the cinnamon spice from their bark, the camphor tree also produces scented foliage, twigs & seeds attractive to birds that pass intact through the digestive system. This makes it a much desired drupe.

The camphor tree makes an exceptional shade, windbreak or street tree in spacious landscapes. Camphor has been used for many centuries as a culinary spice, a component of incense, and as a medicine. The aromatic oils in the wood repel insects.
It has value for antiseptics and medications treating inflammation and itching.
[3] [4]

The largest camphor tree exists in Japan with a trunk circumference above 24.22 meters **(79 feet 5.5 inches)**. It is estimated to be **1500 years old** and has been a national monument since 1952. It is considered a legendary tree. In 2001 the town built elevated walkways to protect its root system. [5]

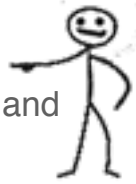
Every part of this tree contains camphor. For centuries these trees have been used for the extraction of this substance, which is used as a food additive, medicine, part of incense and other products.[6]
The extensive, broad root system of a camphor tree resents root disturbance.
The roots are also rather aggressive, growing wherever necessary to obtain moisture or richer soil. *Michael Dirr*

The fruit looks like 'berries', but they are actually drupes containing a hard centre. These fruit are globular (8-10 mm across), glossy in appearance, and turn from green to black as they mature. They are attached to the stem by an enlarged, greenish-coloured, cone-shaped or cup-like structure (a conicalor cupular receptacle) that is about 5 mm across.
http://keys.lucidcentral.org/keys/v3/eafrinet/weeds/key/weeds/Media/Html/Cinnamomum_camphora_%28Camphor_Laurel%29.htm

Camphor trees never loose their leaves making it a great contributor for the cooling of our streets & providing year round shade to our neighbors. This also makes them particularly attractive for birds & wildlife to create nesting spots where they are already utilizing the source of the drupes for a healthy diet.

[3] Botanical.com
[4] http://www.gardenguides.com/113679-camphor-tree.html
[5] http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cinnamomum_camphora
[6] http://www.wondermondo.com/Countries/As/Japan/Kyushu/KamounoOhkusu.htm

## HEALTH BENEFITS OF CAMPHOR



Its properties as a stimulant, antispasmodic, antiseptic, decongestant, anesthetic, sedative and nervous pacifier, anti-neuralgic, anti-inflammatory, disinfectant, and insecticide substance.

**Stimulant & Diaphoretic:** Camphor oil is an effective stimulant, which boosts the activity of the circulatory system, metabolism, digestion, secretion and excretion. This property helps in treating problems and ailments associated with improper circulation, digestion, sluggish or overactive metabolic rates, obstructed secretions, and a wide variety of other less common conditions.

**Antiseptic, Disinfectant, Insecticide, and Germicide:** Camphor oil is an excellent disinfectant, insecticide and germicide. It can be added to drinking water to disinfect it, particularly during the summer and in rainy seasons when there is a higher chance of water becoming infected. An open bottle or container of camphor oil, or burning a piece of cloth soaked in camphor oil, drives away insects and kills germs. A drop or two of camphor oil, mixed with a large quantity of food grains, keep those food items safe from insects. Camphor is also used in many medical preparations such as ointments and lotion to cure skin diseases, as well as bacterial and fungal infections of the skin. When mixed into bathing water, camphor oil disinfects the whole body externally and kills lice or other small parasites of bugs that might be on your body.

**Anesthetic & Nervous Pacifier:** It acts as a good anesthetic and is very effective for local anesthesia. It causes numbness of the sensory nerves at the area of application. It also reduces the severity of nervous disorders and convulsions, epileptic attacks, nervousness, and chronic anxiety.

**Antispasmodic:** It is a very efficient antispasmodic and gives immediate relief from spasms and cramps. It is also effective at curing extreme spasmodic cholera.

**Anti-inflammatory and Sedative:** The cooling and penetrating effects of camphor oil make it an anti-inflammatory and sedative agent. It is very helpful in curing nearly all types of inflammation, both internal and external. It also relaxes the body and mind while giving a feeling of peace and freshness. It proves to be very cooling and refreshing, particularly in the summer. Camphor oil can also be mixed with bathing water to have that extra sensation of coolness in the summer heat.

**Decongestant:** The strong, penetrating aroma of camphor oil is a powerful decongestant. It immediately relieves congestion of the bronchi, larynx, pharynx, nasal tracts and lungs. It is therefore used in many decongestant balms and cold rubs.

**Other Benefits**

It is sometimes used in cases of cardiac failure, in combination with other medicines. It is also beneficial in the treatment of epilepsy, hysteria, viral diseases like whooping cough, measles, flu. food poisoning, infections of the reproductive organs, and insect bites.

**Blending:** Camphor oil blends particularly well with Basil, Cajuput, Camomile, Melissa and Lavender Oil, for uses in aromatherapy.[7]

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[7] https://www.organicfacts.net/health-benefits/essential-oils/camphor-essential-oil.html

## TREES AS HISTORICAL MONUMENTS

When the Los Angeles Cultural Heritage Board was formed in 1962, its first-designated sites were HCM #1 (Leonis Adobe) and HCM #2 (Bolton Hall), both located in the San Fernando/Crescenta Valleys.

The role of trees in the development of the Valley is celebrated with monument listings for a 1,000-year-old oak tree in Encino (removed in 1996), 114 Himalayan Deodar trees along White Oak in Granada Hills, 76 mature olive trees along Lassen Street in Chatsworth, and 300 pepper trees lining in Canoga Avenue in Woodland Hills.

HCM # 24: Oak Tree Designated 1963
1,000 year old oak tree in Encino.

HCM # 41: 114 Deodar Trees Designated 1966
Cedrus deodara trees native to the Himalayas, planted in 1932; between San Fernando Mission and San Jose St. along White Oak in Granada Hills.

HCM # 49: Olive Trees Designated 1967
76 Mature Olive Trees planted in late 19th Century lining both sides of Lassen St. between Topanga Canyon Blvd. and Farralone Ave.in Chatsworth.

HCM # 93: Pepper Trees Designated 1972
Approximately 300 California Pepper Trees (Schinus molle) planted for Girard development in the 1920s forming an arch over Canoga Ave. between Ventura Blvd. and Saltillo St.

Protecting mature trees in the San Fernando Valley is essential and plays an important role in society.

## HISTORY

The San Fernando Valley's history includes sheep ranching, wheat farming & fruit orchards.

In October 1887, J. B. Lankershim and eight other developers organized the Lankershim Ranch Land and Water Company, purchasing 12,000 acres from the Lankershim Farming and Milling Company.
They then established a townsite which the residents named Toluca (later Lankershim, and now North Hollywood) along the old Tulare Road from Cahuenga Pass to San Fernando.
On April 1, 1888, they offered ready-made small farms for sale, already planted with deep-rooted deciduous fruit and nut trees—mostly peaches, pears, and walnuts.

Sheep grazing on a ranch owned by the Weddington family at 4141 Whitsett Ave. circa late 1800s. Later, it was a wheat farm, a casaba melon farm, and eventually a golf course.

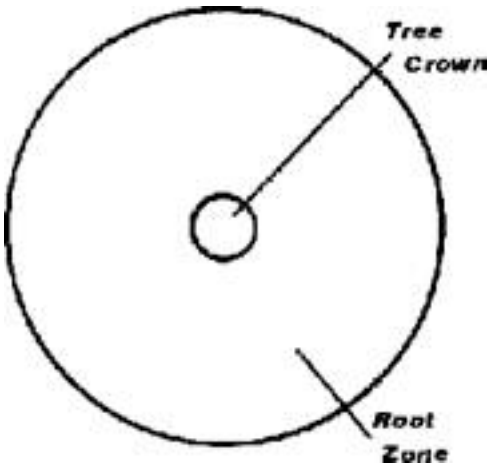
## Healthy Roots and Healthy Trees

Tree Root Survival & Growth Roots utilize space in the soil. The more space controlled the more potential resources controlled. The volume of soil space controlled by tree roots is directly related to tree health.
The resources required are **water**, **oxygen**, **physical space for growth processes**, **and open soil surface area for replenishment of essential resources**.

Tree roots occupy the spaces and gaps around, under, and between infrastructures. In heavily compacted sites, roots will be concentrated around the edges of infrastructures and filling any moist air space.
The soil matrix is only a significant concern for essential elements, surfaces holding biological cooperators, and frictional and inertial forces for structural integrity.
Tree roots and the soil surrounding them are an ecological composite of living, once-living, and abiotic features facilitating life.
Compaction initiates many negative impacts in the soil including: decreases the volume of ecologically active space available; tree rootable space is decreased and made more shallow; the detritus food web, the ecological engine responsible for powering a healthy soil, is disrupted and modified; the diversity of living things decline, beneficial associates are eliminated, and a few ecological niche generalists succeed; and, pests favored by the new conditions (i.e. Pythium & Phytophera) consume organisms and roots not able to defend themselves.
Tree roots become more prone to damage and attack at a time when sensor, defense, growth regulation, and carbon allocation processes are functioning at reduced levels.

## Quick Facts:

- Most tree roots are located in the top 6 to 24 inches of the soil and occupy an area two to four times the diameter of the tree crown.
- Roots obtain water, oxygen and minerals from soil. They do not grow toward anything or in any particular direction.
- To avoid root disease, maintain a healthy, vigorous environment around a tree. Once a root system is severely affected, the tree usually must be removed.




Fact Sheet No. 2.926 Colorado State University, U.S. Department of Agriculture
Soil Compaction & Trees: Causes, Symptoms & Effects by Dr. Kim D. Coder, University of Georgia July 2000

## Healthy Roots and Healthy Trees

**Root Requirements:**
Roots utilize soil spaces for access to water and essential element resources, and to provide structural support. Roots grow following pathways of interconnected soil pores. Pore space can be the result of the space between textural units (sand, silt, and clay particles), between structural units (blocks, plates, grains, prisms, etc.), along fracture lines (shrink / swell clays, frost heaving, pavement interfaces, etc.), and through paths of biological origins (decayed roots, animal diggings, etc.).
Roots survive and grow where adequate water is available, temperatures are warm, and oxygen is present.
Roots are generally shallow as limited by oxygen contents, anaerobic conditions, and water saturation in deeper soil. Near the base of the tree, deep growing roots can be found, but they are oxygenated through fissures and cracks generated as a result of mechanical forces moving the crown and stem under wind loads (sway).

Camphor tree's fibrous roots span long distances and smell strongly of camphor so it is easy to id them.[8]
Camphor tree roots carry an extensive broad root system are very sensitive to disturbance.[9]

**Renovation of Sites Principles:**
A summary of this discussion of soil compaction lies with those general principles and renovation techniques managers must use to reclaim a part of the **ecological integrity** of the site, as well as soil and tree health.
General soil compaction renovation principles are listed below in a bullet format: –
**Soil compaction should be considered permanent. Studies demonstrate that after one-half century, compaction still afflicts soils under natural forest conditions.**
**Recovery times for significant compaction is at least two human generations.**
**Soils do not "come back" from compaction.** – Every soil used by humankind has a representative compacted layer, zone, area, or crust. Changing management may not change the current compacted zone but may well add an additional compacted zone in a new position.

**Conclusions:**
Soil compaction is a hidden stressor which steals health and sustainability from soil and tree systems. Causes of compaction are legion and solutions limited. Without creative actions regarding the greening of inter-infrastructural spaces in our communities, we will spend most of our budgets and careers treating symptoms and replacing trees. Understanding the hideous scourge of soil compaction is essential to better, corrective management.

Please see attached document titled: **SoilCompactionAndTrees.pdf**

Fact Sheet No. 2.926 Colorado State University, U.S. Department of Agriculture

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Soil Compaction & Trees: Causes, Symptoms & Effects by Dr. Kim D. Coder, University of Georgia July 2000
[8] http://davesgarden.com/guides/pf/go/54395/#b
[9] Michael A. Dirr, Ph.D

Urban Deforestation has many negative effects on the environment. The most dramatic impact is a loss of habitat for millions of species. Seventy percent of Earth's land animals and plants live in forests, and many cannot survive the deforestation that destroys their homes.
The quickest solution to Urban Deforestation would be to simply stop cutting down trees..

Trees absorb carbon dioxide & turn it into oxygen. The removal of a mature tree causes less carbon dioxide to get absorbed which builds into the atmosphere with green house gas emissions contributing to global warming.
*National Geographic Society*

## Keep the Trees You Have:

Local governments are finally responding to the problem.
More than 2,000 big and small cities have launched long-term planting and preservation programs.
In San Francisco, new laws treat mature trees like historic buildings.

For now, the most immediate answer is less the planting strategy than the preservation one, something that can best be achieved by curbing sprawl and downsizing our taste for too-big homes.

In 2007 Time Magazine said: *"Los Angeles, whose plans are perhaps the most ambitious, is looking to plant 1 million trees over the next 30 years, though of course the effects would not be felt for a long time". Every tree that's subtracted from a city's ecosystem means some particulate pollution that should have been filtered out remains.*
*Simply replanting does not suffice because small, young trees require decades to grow to full size.*
*A big tree does 60 to 70 times the pollution removal of a small tree*
*Source: Time magazine*
*http://content.time.com/time/magazine/article/0,9171,1635842,00.html*

Time magazine concluded that preservation of our trees is much more immediately needed than simply the planting of new ones. This benefits our city on a grand scale including all of its inhabitants.

It is important to preserve our cities trees. They are our local source that represent time periods that link us to present day.

- In 1856 Massachusetts enforced Shade Tree protection where 'the spirit of the law' was defined in 1915.[10]
- New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Maryland, Michigan, New York all enacted legislative laws to protect & preserve their trees.

Impact on Environment:
Economic impact:
Ecology and aesthetics justify tree preservation and protection.
*https://www.planning.org/pas/at60/report236.htm*

Existing designated Camphor Trees were found on HCM #509, processing ID HPOZC-07920
and listed as a district contributor.
(source: http://historicplacesla.org/reports/3adf14f7-2b37-4827-a05e-fc30e83bd5d9)

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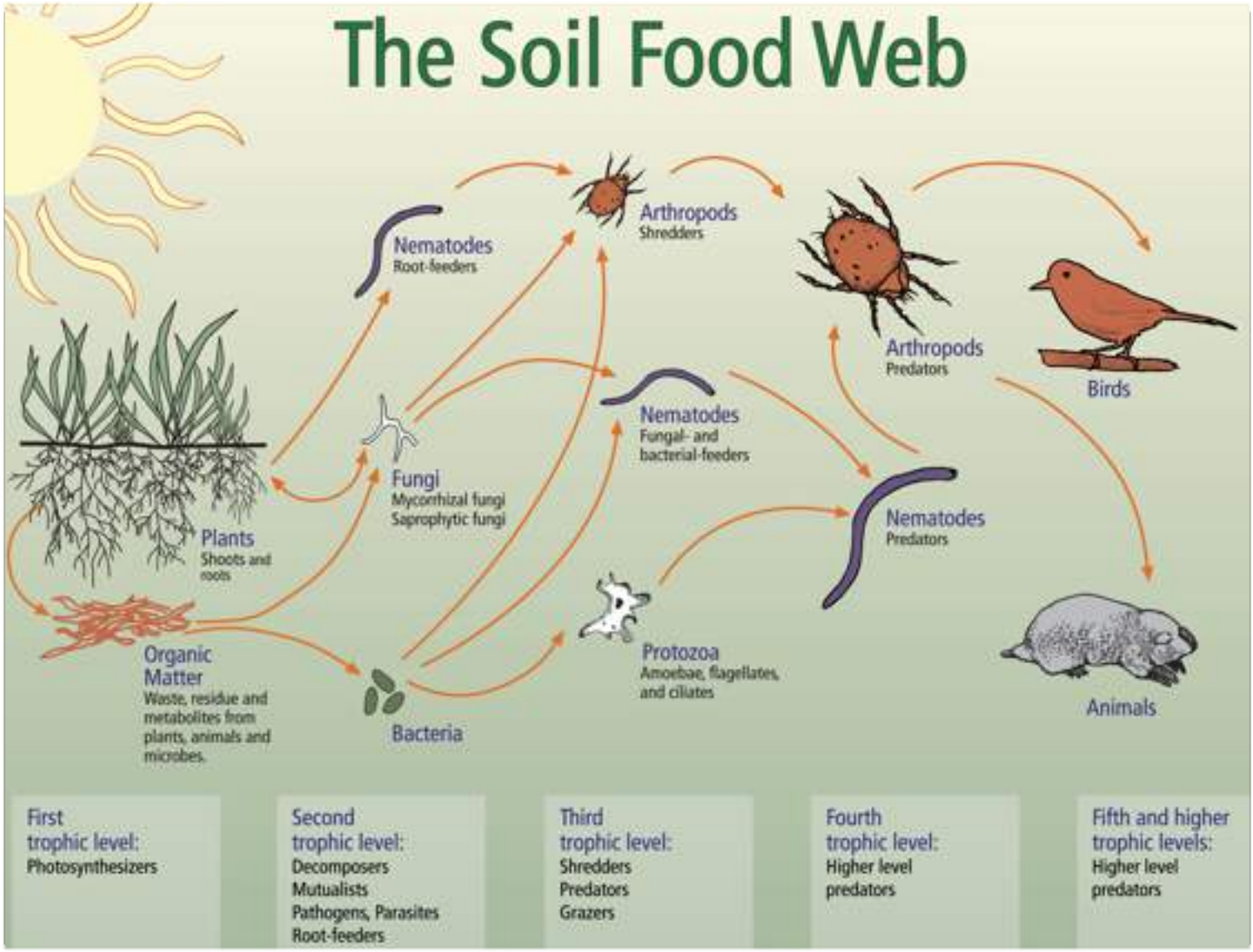
[10] *https://www.planning.org/pas/at60/report236.htm*

# SOIL FOOD WEB

## SOIL BIOLOGY AND THE LANDSCAPE [11]

An incredible diversity of organisms make up the soil food web. They range in size from the tiniest one-celled bacteria, algae, fungi, and protozoa, to the more complex nematodes and micro-arthropods, to the visible earthworms, insects, small vertebrates, and plants.

As these organisms eat, grow, and move through the soil, they make it possible to have clean water, clean air, healthy plants, and moderated water flow.




**USDA - Natural Resources Conservation Service Soils**
http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/detailfull/soils/health/biology/?cid=nrcs142p2_053868

[11] *http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/detailfull/soils/health/biology/?cid=nrcs142p2_053868*

## Functions of Soil Organisms

| Type of Soil Organism | | Major Functions |
|---|---|---|
| **Photosynthesizers** | • Plants<br>• Algae<br>• Bacteria | **Capture energy**<br>• Use solar energy to fix $CO_2$.<br>• Add organic matter to soil (biomass such as dead cells, plant litter, and secondary metabolites). |
| **Decomposers** | • Bacteria<br>• Fungi | **Break down residue**<br>• Immobilize (retain) nutrients in their biomass.<br>• Create new organic compounds (cell constituents, waste products) that are sources of energy and nutrients for other organisms.<br>• Produce compounds that help bind soil into aggregates.<br>• Bind soil aggregates with fungal hyphae.<br>• Nitrifying and denitrifying bacteria convert forms of nitrogen.<br>• Compete with or inhibit disease-causing organisms. |
| **Mutualists** | • Bacteria<br>• Fungi | **Enhance plant growth**<br>• Protect plant roots from disease-causing organisms.<br>• Some bacteria fix $N_2$.<br>• Some fungi form mycorrhizal associations with roots and deliver nutrients (such as P) and water to the plant. |
| **Pathogens** | • Bacteria<br>• Fungi | **Promote disease**<br>• Consume roots and other plant parts, causing disease.<br>• Parasitize nematodes or insects, including disease-causing organisms. |
| **Parasites** | • Nematodes<br>• Microarthropods | |
| **Root-feeders** | • Nematodes<br>• Macroarthropods (e.g., cutworm, weevil larvae, & symphylans) | **Consume plant roots**<br>• Potentially cause significant crop yield losses. |
| **Bacterial-feeders** | • Protozoa<br>• Nematodes | **Graze**<br>• Release plant available nitrogen ($NH_4^+$) and other nutrients when feeding on bacteria.<br>• Control many root-feeding or disease-causing pests.<br>• Stimulate and control the activity of bacterial populations. |
| **Fungal-feeders** | • Nematodes<br>• Microarthropods | **Graze**<br>• Release plant available nitrogen ($NH_4^+$) and other nutrients when feeding on fungi.<br>• Control many root-feeding or disease-causing pests.<br>• Stimulate and control the activity of fungal populations. |
| **Shredders** | • Earthworms<br>• Macroarthropods | **Break down residue and enhance soil structure**<br>• Shred plant litter as they feed on bacteria and fungi.<br>• Provide habitat for bacteria in their guts and fecal pellets.<br>• Enhance soil structure as they produce fecal pellets and burrow through soil. |
| **Higher-level predators** | • Nematode-feeding nematodes<br>• Larger arthropods, mice, voles, shrews, birds, other above-ground animals | **Control populations**<br>• Control the populations of lower trophic-level predators.<br>• Larger organisms improve soil structure by burrowing and by passing soil through their guts.<br>• Larger organisms carry smaller organisms long distances. |

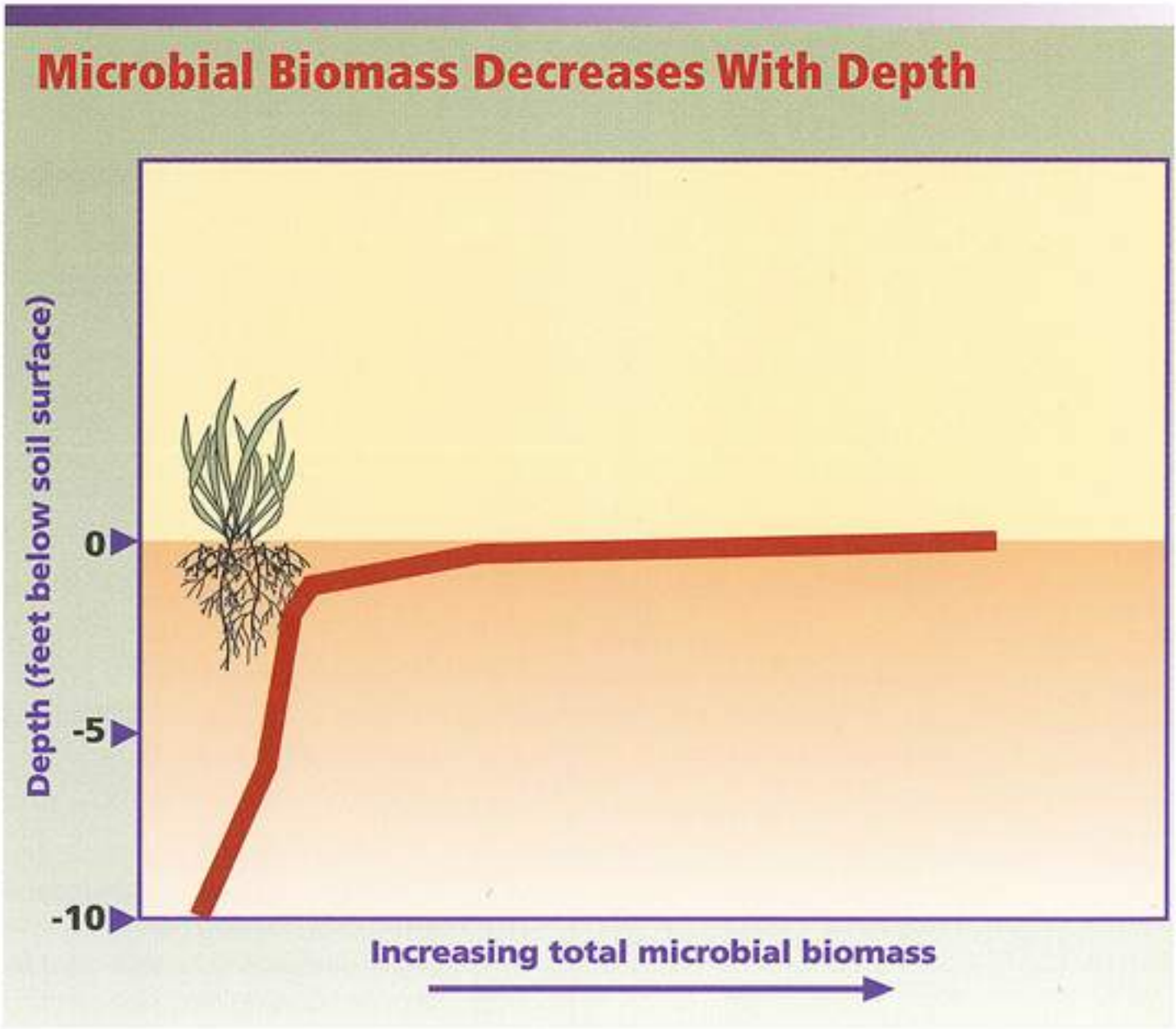
## What Do Soil Organisms Do?

Growing and reproducing are the primary activities of all living organisms. As individual plants and soil organisms work to survive, they depend on interactions with each other. By-products from growing roots and plant residue feed soil organisms. In turn, soil organisms support plant health as they decompose organic matter, cycle nutrients, enhance soil structure, and control the populations of soil organisms including crop pests.

Soil organic matter is the storehouse for the energy and nutrients used by plants and other organisms. Bacteria, fungi, and other soil dwellers transform and release nutrients from organic matter. These microshredders, immature oribatid mites, skeletonize plant leaves. This starts the nutrient cycling of carbon, nitrogen, and other elements.

## Where Do Soil Organisms Live?

**Around roots.**
The rhizosphere is the narrow region of soil directly around roots. It is teeming with bacteria that feed on sloughed-off plant cells and the proteins and sugars released by roots. The protozoa and nematodes that graze on bacteria are also concentrated near roots. Thus, much of the nutrient cycling and disease suppression needed by plants occurs immediately adjacent to roots.



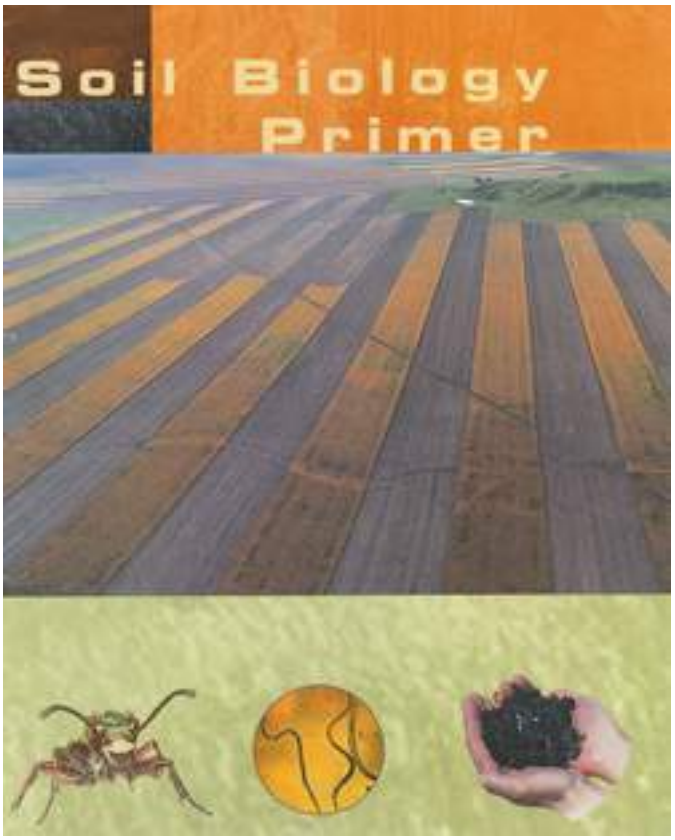

Bacteria are abundant around this root tip (the rhizosphere) where they decompose the plentiful simple organic substances.

## The Importance of the Soil Food Web

The living component of soil, the food web, is complex and has different compositions in different ecosystems. Management of croplands, rangelands, forestlands, and gardens benefits from and affects the food web. The next unit of the Soil Biology Primer, The Food Web & Soil Health, introduces the relationship of soil biology to agricultural productivity, biodiversity, carbon sequestration and to air and water quality. The remaining six units of the Soil Biology Primer describe the major groups of soil organisms: bacteria, fungi, protozoa, nematodes, arthropods, and earthworms.

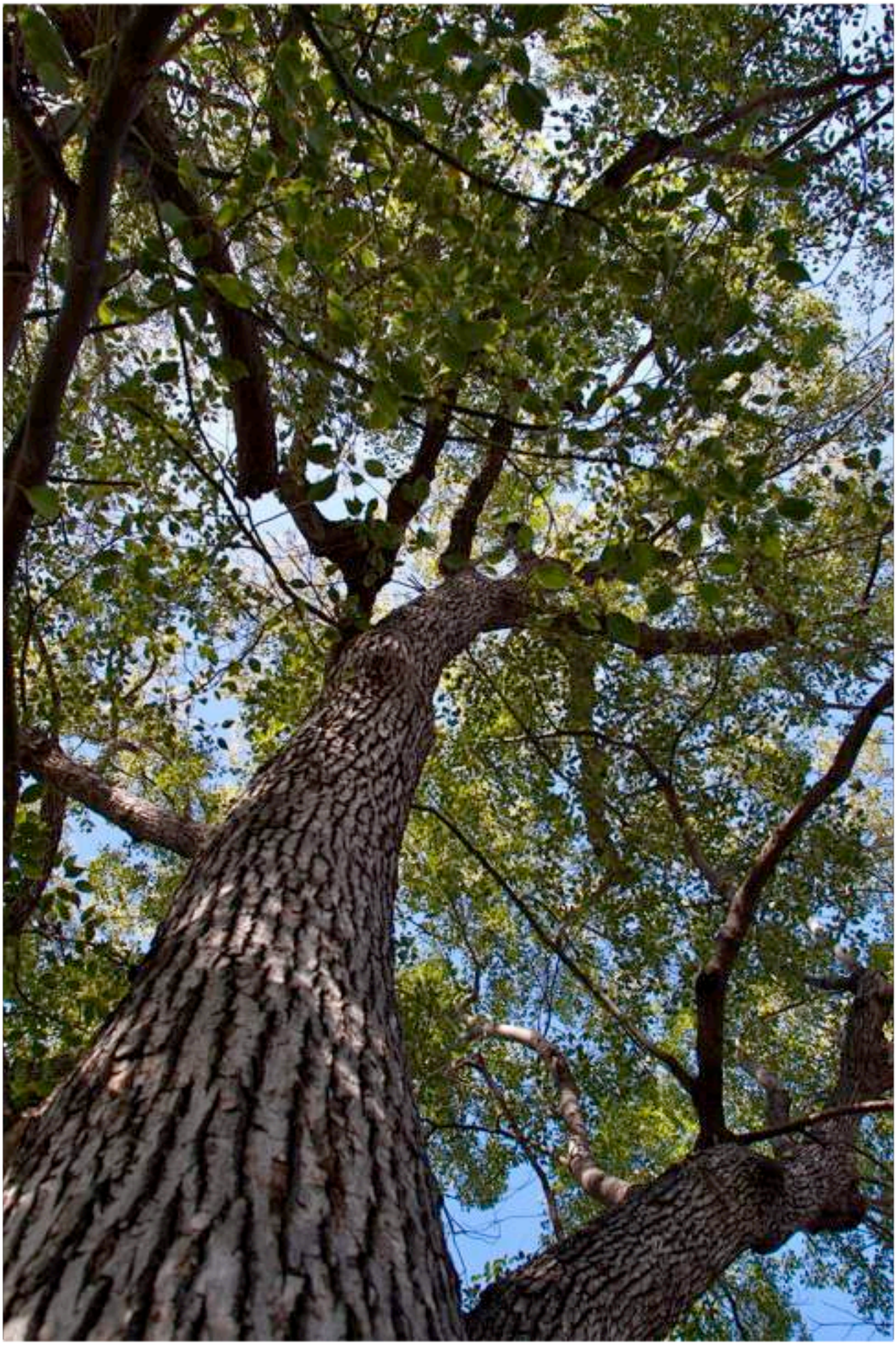
# Soil Biology

The creatures living in the soil are critical to soil health. They affect soil structure and therefore soil erosion and water availability.
They can protect crops from pests and diseases. They are central to decomposition and nutrient cycling and therefore affect plant growth and amounts of pollutants in the environment.
Finally, the soil is home to a large proportion of the world's genetic diversity.




*All plants – grass, trees, shrubs, agricultural crops – depend on the food web for their nutrition.*

http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/main/soils/health/biology/#
http://soils.usda.gov/sqi/concepts/soil_biology/biology.html

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ADDITIONAL EXISTING MATURE TREES ON PROPERTY

# P. *macrophyllus*

yew pine

Family: Podocarpaceae
Genus: Podocarpus
Species: *P. macrophyllus*

## FACTS

- Evergreen conifer tree

- Can reach **20 meters (65 feet) tall**

- When mature, the scales swell up and become reddish purple, fleshy and berry-like, 10–20 mm long; they are then eaten by birds.

- Because of its resistance to termites and water, it is used for quality wooden houses.

- The Yew Pine (also referred to as Buddhist Pine) is highly regarded as a feng shui tree in Hong Kong and has become illegal to remove.[12]

- Currently listed as population decreasing on iucnredlist.org with Deforestation impacting the area of occupancy of this species, especially in the southern parts of its range.[13]

- Highly desired by birds & wildlife for habitat as well as reliable food source.

- Longevity is listed as greater than **150 years.**

Existing pair estimated 45+ years old.

[12] http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Podocarpus_macrophyllus
[13] http://www.iucnredlist.org/details/42517/0

# Celtis *sinensis*

Hackberry

Family: Cannabaceae
Genus: Celtis
Species: *C. sinensis*

## FACTS

- Deciduous tree in the hemp family.
- Can reach between **10–25 meters (33–82 feet)** up to **40 meters (130 feet)** tall.
- The fruit is a globose drupe 6–10 mm (0.24–0.39 in) in diameter, edible in many species, with a dryish but sweet, sugary consistency.
- The genus is present in the fossil record at least since the Miocene of Europe[14]

It is possible to compare Celtis growth with that of other drupaceous fruits but no other data have been published for drupes with high concentrations of silica and calcium. It seems probable that this highly mineralized condition maybe a major contributing factor to the excellent preservation of Celtis in the fossil record.[15] The Miocene epoch lasted from 23.3 million to 5.2 million years ago. During this time, the Alps and Himalayas were being formed and there was diversification of the primates, including the first apes. That is how far back this tree goes.

Celtis trees are known & valued for their drought tolerance. Celtis is a valuable pollen source for bees. They are also utilized by the Lepidoptera order, which includes but is not limited to caterpillars, brush-footed butterflies & most importantly the distinct genus Libythea (beak butterflies) and some Apaturinae (emperor butterflies).

Leaves and bark are used in medicine to treat menstruation & lung abscess. It is a naturalized non-invasive species an an important part of our ecosystem.

Existing tree estimated 65+ years old.

[14] Harlow and Harrars Textbook of Dendrology
[15] Growth and Biomineralization of Celtis

# Yucca gloriosa

Spanish dagger

Family: Asparagaceae
Genus: Yucca
Species: *Y. gloriosa*

## FACTS

- Species of flowering plant in the family Asparagaceae, native to the southeastern USA.
- Coalescent evergreen, perennial shrubs or trees with tough, sword-shaped leaves and large clusters of white, rounded to bell-shaped flowers.
- The plant is widely cultivated in warm temperate and subtropical climates, and valued as an architectural focal point.
- Y. *gloriosa* and the cultivar 'Variegata' have both gained the Royal Horticultural Society's Award of Garden Merit.[16]
- NatureServe lists the Y. *gloriosa* as having G4 Conservation Status.

ASSOCIATED ORGANISMS
Beneficials: native bees (nesting material)
hummingbirds (nectar)

[16] https://www.rhs.org.uk/plants/details?plantid=4318

# Lagerstroemia speciosa

Crape Myrtle

Family: Lythraceae
Genus: Lagerstroemia
Species: *Lagerstroemia*

## FACTS

- Deciduous evergreen tree growing up to 66 ft tall, with smooth, flaky bark.
- The leaves are deciduous, oval to elliptic, 3.1–5.9 in long and 1.2–2.8 in broad, with an acute apex.
- The flowers are produced in erect panicles 7.9–15.7 in long, each flower with six white to purple petals 0.79–1.38 in long.
- Fruit is a capsule that splits along six or seven lines, producing teeth much like those of the calyx, & releases numerous, small, winged seeds.
- Named after Magnus von Lagerstroem, a Swedish naturalist who provided specimens from the East for Linnaeus.
- In Theravada Buddhism, this plant is said to have been used as the tree for achieved enlightenment, or Bodhi by the eleventh Lord Buddha.
- One of the most popular pollen sources for bees.

## MEDICINAL USES

- In Ayurvedic medicine, it is used successfully in the treatment of diabetes.[17]
- Useful for astringent purposes.
- Roots provide a diuretic effect, also detoxifying.
- Using the stem bark, it serves as a fever reducer by means of infusion or decoction.
- Using the stem bark, stimulates the body and stop bleeding of minor cuts.
- Petals are used externally on wounds for healing, having some of those astringent and styptic qualities themselves.
- The seeds contain powerful anti-oxidents and are used as antibacterial preparation.
- The leaves, as an infusion, contain a great amount of zinc and magnesium, both important daily dietary needs.
- The leaves, cooked, provide plenty of fiber.[18]

Existing tree estimate over 45 years old.

[17] *https://www.diabeteshealth.com/uncategorized/banaba-lagerstroemia-speciosa-l/*
[18] *http://www.examiner.com/article/crepe-myrtle-has-healing-properties-a-pretty-package*

# P. orientalis

## Thuya arborvitae

Family: Lythraceae / Cupressaceae
Genus: Platycladus / Thuya
Species: P. orientalis

## FACTS

- Cypress family containing only one species.
- Distinct genus of evergreen coniferous slow-growing tree with distinct cones.
- Common name 'arborvitae' is from Latin, 'tree of life'; based on its association with long life and vitality in Buddhism.
- 15–20 m tall and 0.5 m trunk diameter (exceptionally to 30 m tall and 2 m diameter in very old trees).
- The Foliage forms in flat sprays with scale-like leaves 2–4 mm long.
- The cones are 15–25 mm long, green ripening brown in about eight months from pollination.
- The seeds are 4–6 mm long, with no wing.
- Associated with long life and vitality.
- The wood is used in Buddhist temples, both for construction work, and chipped, for incense burning.
- Fruit is used by wildlife as a food resource.
- Fairly close relatives are Juniperus and Cuprous.
- Its cultivars have gained Royal Horticultural Society's Award of Garden Merit.

Photo taken of Thuya early 1950‘s in same location. Estimated 65+ years old.

Photo taken of Thuya 2015 in same location.

# Jan C. Scow Consulting Arborists, LLC

Disease and Pest Diagnosis, Hazard Evaluation, Restorative Pruning Advice, Value Assessment

1739 Franklin Street Unit A
Santa Monica, CA 90404
(818) 789-9127


Date: 6/14/15
[redacted]
From: Jan Scow
Subject: Trees at [redacted]

You asked me to examine the property at the subject address and provide my opinion of the trees there to aid you in your efforts to have the property classified as a heritage site. My description follows.

This property is a throwback to a less urban feel in the Valley. It is a peaceful oasis in the midst of rapidly expanding apartments in the neighborhood. The most striking thing when you first approach it is the canopy of mature trees. Primary among these are the two large camphor trees (*Cinnamomum camphora*). These trees were probably planted when the property was first developed in the 1930's and are quite possibly the oldest trees in the neighborhood at over 80 years old. The larger of the two camphor trees has a trunk diameter of 37 inches at 4.5 feet above grade, while the smaller one is 28.5 inches in diameter. Both trees are relatively healthy and well cared for. These two large trees shade the entire front of the lot and provide food and habitat for many species of birds as well as tree squirrels. It is sometimes stated that tree roots may grow 1.5 times the distance of the canopy spread. If that is the case, potentially there are roots from these camphor trees under all the streets and properties surrounding this site.

Near the smaller of the two camphor trees is a small hackberry tree (*Celtis* sp.). While these are not considered rare in southern California, I do not see many of them in my travels around the southland. They are a durable, trouble-free tree that seldom needs pruning and has a reputation for being deep-rooted and not buckling sidewalks! These trees produce berries that squirrels and birds feed on. This particular tree is quite nice and although small, in very good condition. Its trunk diameter is 16 inches at 1 foot above grade.

In the front northeast corner, near and under the larger camphor tree, is a female white mulberry or "silkworm mulberry" (*Morus alba*). This is also something seldom seen in cultivation in SoCal. The tree is healthy and, although tucked under the huge camphor next to it, quite picturesque. We noted some fruit on this tree also, which is edible not only to squirrels and birds, but also to people. This

tree may be more than 45 years old, based on old photos. Another interesting observation about this species is described in the following abstract:

**High-speed pollen release in the white mulberry tree, *Morus alba* L**

Philip E. Taylor, Gwyneth Card, James House, Michael H. Dickinson, Richard C. Flagan

> *Anemophilous plants described as catapulting pollen explosively into the air have rarely attracted detailed examination. We investigated floral anthesis in a male mulberry tree with high-speed video and a force probe. The stamen was inflexed within the floral bud. Exposure to dry air initially resulted in a gradual movement of the stamen. This caused fine threads to tear at the stomium, ensuring dehiscence of the anther, and subsequently enabled the anther to slip off a restraining pistillode. The sudden release of stored elastic energy in the spring-like filament drove the stamen to straighten in less than 25 μs, and reflex the petals to velocities in excess of half the speed of sound. This is the fastest motion yet observed in biology, and approaches the theoretical physical limits for movements in plants.*

Across this lot to the west and across Weddington Street to the southwest (not on the subject property) are two very large Tree-of-Heaven trees (*Ailanthus altissima*). While this species is often considered an undesirable tree, these two individuals are some of the largest I have ever seen and appear to be well cared for and quite healthy. The provide shade comparable to that cast by the two camphor trees. The larger of these two trees is over 36 inches trunk diameter at 18 inches above grade and at least 50 feet tall. Although this species is often criticized, I find them quite remarkable and noteworthy.

Finally, there is an American arborvitae (*Thuja occidentalis*) at the southwest corner of the front house. This tree is probably fairly old (it is estimated that this tree is over 65 years old based on photos), but it is still small, and picturesque in its setting, having grown more tall and narrow than typical, probably because of its location surrounded by buildings. Once again, while this tree is not terribly unusual or rare, it is native to the Pacific Northwest and I do not see many of these in LA.

This is an unusual property in the Valley Village area where so many large buildings have risen and so little open space remains. It provides an ambiance and peacefulness that is a welcome relief in the bustling San Fernando Valley. It is the home of several worthy and notable trees and provides habitat for many species of birds and mammals, at the very least. I have provided photographs of some of the trees discussed and hope that this is useful!

Please let us know if we can be of any further assistance or if you have any additional questions. Our goal is to satisfy our clients and help them to better care for their trees in the most effective way possible. We look forward to working with you toward that goal!

Sincerely,

Jan C. Scow
ASCA Registered Consulting Arborist #382
ISA Certified Arborist # WC1972

Attached:

1) Photos (5 pages)
2) Aerial photo

Looking east, at two large camphors, with hackberry in the right foreground.

Hackberry with fruit

White mulberry

Mulberry fruit

A “resident” squirrel in the mulberry tree

Looking up into the canopy of the “small” camphor tree.

Fruit (immature cone) of American arborvitae


THE ONLY "ISLAND OF TREES" AMIDST
MASSIVE BUILDINGS AND PAVING.