



Mountain House Community Services District Newsletter

*The Mission of the District is to Provide Responsive
Service to our Growing Community
that Exceeds Expectations at a Fair Value*

November
2020

STORMWATER DRAINAGE

When it rains, water washes over roofs, streets, driveways, sidewalks, parking lots, and land surfaces. Along the way, it can pick up a variety of pollutants, such as oil, pesticides, metals, chemicals, and soil. This polluted stormwater drains into the storm system that eventually discharges into our creek and rivers. The pollutants can endanger our waterways' water quality, making them unhealthy for people, fish, and wildlife. No matter where you live, there's a drainage system in place to help rainwater find its way to the river.

Given the MHCS D's limited budget and staff, MHCS D relies heavily on citizen involvement to help keep streets safe and storm drains clean and to notify MHCS D if a higher level of maintenance is needed at a particular location.

How you can help keep storm drains clean:

To lessen street flooding, the MHCS D asks residents and property managers to help clean the inlets and storm drains in front of your properties. Use a rake or pitchfork to clear leaves, limbs, and debris from the storm drain. Do not put your feet and hands into the storm drain because all kinds of waste are collected there and could be dangerous. Do not try to remove the grate, only the debris on top of the grate.

The best time to inspect the storm drains in front of your house or business is before a rain event and right after a rain. If you cannot clear a clogged storm drain yourself, notify the MHCS D that help is needed. Call **209-831-2300** and report the particular location.

Please do not rake or blow the leaves from your yard into the street. Bag them at the curb in the parking strip and prepare them for curbside pickup by your garbage hauler.

For leaves that have fallen into the street, please keep them out of the channel right along the curb, where they will block the path of rainwater. Rake them at least one foot from the curb.

How to prevent neighborhood drainage problems

Water is the most common cause of unstable slopes and erosion. Check your home's drainage system. Maintaining the drainage system on private property is the owner's responsibility. Ensure your drainage system directs water away from your foundation and not on to your neighbor's property.

Clean your gutters and downspouts. Check your gutters once a week during fall and winter. Just one wind or rainstorm can clog a well-flowing drainage system.

Never block any part of the MHCS D's drainage system. Do not put leaves, dirt, grass clippings, or any materials in ditches, culverts, or drains. Doing so can cause flooding.

It is against the law to dump any material into the drainage system. **To report illegal dumping, call 209-831-2300.**

SCHEDULE OF MHCS D EVENTS

Board meetings and committee meetings are held in the Town Hall Boardroom at the CSD office. For class and event locations, please see below. If you would like additional information on the classes or events, please contact Angel Lamb at alamb@sjgov.org.

Farmers' Market

Date: Every Sunday

Time: 9:00am - 1:00pm

Location: Town Hall Parking Lot

Mountain House Vintage Seniors Meeting

Date: Wednesday, November 18, 2020

Time: 10:00 am

Location: Zoom

For more information, please contact Angel Lamb at alamb@sjgov.org

Youth Action Committee Meeting

Date: Tuesday, November 10, 2020

Time: 7:00 pm

For more information, please contact Director Tingle at btingle@sjgov.org

MHCS D Board of Directors Meeting

Date: Wednesday, November 18, 2020

Time: 7:00pm

OFFICE CLOSURE

Please note the Mountain House Community Services Offices will be closed on the following dates:

- Wednesday, November 11, 2020
- Thursday, November 26, 2020
- Friday, November 27, 2020
- Thursday, December 24, 2020
- Friday, December 25, 2020
- Thursday, December 31, 2020
- Friday, January 1, 2021

UPCOMING ACTIVITIES AND EVENTS

If your group has an activity open to the community in Mountain House please send information to Angel Lamb no later than the 10th of the month to be included in the newsletter.

MAINTENANCE STANDARDS FOR NEIGHBORHOOD STREET TREES

Street trees in parkway strips are critical to creating an attractive and harmonious landscape expression in each Mountain House neighborhood. We will explore the requirements related to establishing and maintaining residential trees located in the parkway strips between the sidewalk and curb.

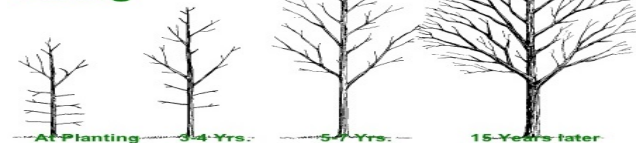
On November 10, 1994, the Mountain House Master Plan was adopted. This document was the beginning process to create concepts that eventually became our Design Standard that, to this day, guides us in everything we do. The intent of design standards assures the high-quality image that Mountain House wishes to achieve. The Mountain House Master Plan was established through the planning and construction and must be carried through to maintain the buildings and landscape. One of the most important concepts was for tree-lined streets throughout Mountain House. The trees that lined the roads within our villages were to touch way above the street someday. Recent inspections have shown that many of the original trees have been neglected (figure 1). Some trees are dead, missing, and some have been replaced with a different species altogether, so our goal in achieving our conceptual image was in danger of failing.

(figure1)

Family A's Tree - Not Pruned When Young



Family B's Tree - Pruned When Young



Many residents are unaware that trees located between the sidewalk and curb are the responsibility of the homeowner. Within the Master Restrictions, some guidelines must be met to ensure the trees intended to meet a conceptual image have a chance to do so. The homeowners must provide proper maintenance for these trees, whether they choose to perform the care themselves or hire an arborist to do the work. This includes the replacement of damaged, dead or missing trees and plant healthcare, as well as street light and roadway sign clearance.

The Mountain House Community Services District will reach out in the following months and offer helpful information to perform routine maintenance on street trees. This information will include proper pruning techniques when a tree should be replaced, when a tree needs pruning, when an arborist should be called, and many other helpful hints and guidelines.

MHCS D MASTER RESTRICTIONS REMINDER

Before you make changes to your home, such as:

- Extending your driveway
- Change your landscaping
- Paint your house
- Paint your fence
- Add concrete
- Parking your RV/Boat in your driveway or the street

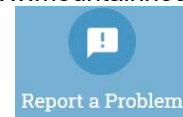
Contact and get approval from Mountain House Community Services District.

Visit www.mountainhousecsd.org to learn more about Mountain House Master Restrictions and CC&R's (Section 4.01 Purpose and Section 6.01. Architectural Control)

STREETLIGHT OUTAGES

With over 2,000 streetlights to maintain, it is a challenge to catch and replace bulbs, or repair malfunctions before residents notice. That is why we find it so extremely helpful when residents report outages. To help us help you, you may provide information through the following applications. There are three easy ways to report a streetlight malfunction:

1. Choose "report a problem" on the district website www.mountainhousecsd.org:



2. Report via GO Request mobile app:



GORequest
GOGovApps, Inc
3.8 *

3. Call (209) 831-2300 during business hours

The following information would be helpful:

- Streetlight pole number (if safely viewable)
- Street name and address where the streetlight is located. Indicate if the pole is in front of, across from, or in-between the address given
- Nearest cross street

Mountain House Community Services District
251 E. Main Street
Mountain House, CA 95391
209-831-2300
mountainhousecsd.org