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Homework 1

## **How San Francisco's Trees Are Maintained**

I wanted to explore how trees in San Francisco are distributed and maintained, so I visualized the four most common species and compared privately vs. publicly maintained trees. The first visualization highlights where these trees are found, while the second splits them by private caretakers vs. the Department of Public Works (DPW). There were a couple of things that could be noticed, but there was one main connection that stood out. Privately maintained trees are more spread out, while DPW trees cluster along major streets like Market Street and Embarcadero, likely because the city prioritizes those high-traffic areas.

To clean up the data, I filtered out everything except the top four species so the patterns would be clearer. I also categorized trees by their caretaker and manually added key streets (Embarcadero, Market Street, Sunset Boulevard, and California Street) as black markers to help with orientation. For the visuals, I color-coded tree species, sized circles by tree diameter, and kept everything geographically accurate. The bar chart reinforces the ranking of species, while the side-by-side maps make it easy to compare public vs. private maintenance.

I wanted to highlight the role of both private owners and the city in shaping SF's urban canopy. Public trees follow a more strategic placement, while private trees show up wherever homeowners and businesses decide to plant them. I hope that by seeing these patterns side by side, users will appreciate how both approaches contribute to the city's green spaces.