

WHY PRESERVE A TREE?

Redwood City's Tree Preservation Ordinance is in place to ensure that the larger trees on private property in Redwood City are maintained in an appropriate manner to benefit the property owners and residents of the community. The trees cannot speak up for themselves or move away from endangering situations.

Although they belong to individual properties, larger privately owned trees have an impact on the quality of life of the entire community. These privately owned trees grow in the city's urban forest and can contribute more to the quality of life of a neighborhood than city street trees and park trees.

The ordinance governs trees of any tree species that have grown to a size of 38 inches in circumference (or twelve (12) inches in diameter) or greater, at the largest point measured between six (6) inches and thirty-six (36) inches above ground.

[A permit is required prior to pruning or removal of any tree.](#)



City of Redwood City CODE ENFORCEMENT



P.O. Box 391
1017 Middlefield Road
Redwood City, California 94064

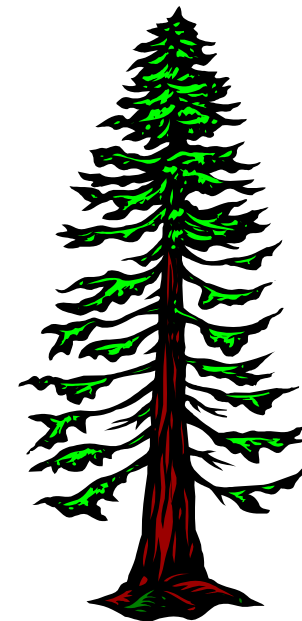
Phone: 650-780-7350
Fax: 650-780-7348
Email: code-enforcement@redwoodcity.org

mkc: 11/21/02 - Publisher / Trees.Brochure
Code Enforcement



TREE PRESERVATION ORDINANCE

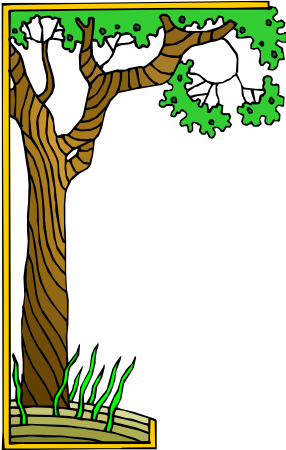
City of Redwood City
CODE ENFORCEMENT



Climate Best by Government Test

Tel: 650-780-7350

TREE PRESERVATION ORDINANCE



Redwood City enjoys the beauty and benefits of hundreds of large mature trees of many diverse species. Northern California's mild climate allows for trees from around the world to grow in our area.

As trees grow larger and more prominent their beauty and

visibility extend beyond the property in which the trees are growing. A tree's presence may extend to a neighborhood or become citywide. One's decision to prune or remove a prominent tree may affect many people.

On June 26, 1972 Redwood City passed Ordinance Number 1536, Chapter 35, Tree Preservation commonly referred to as the "Tree Preservation Ordinance."

The ordinance states **"It is hereby unlawful for anyone to cut, move or remove or cause to cut, move or remove any "tree" unless such person first obtains a permit from the Director of Parks and Recreation to do so in a manner prescribed by him for such removal."**

(RCC 35.3)



A "tree" is defined as:

- (a) Any woody plant characterized by having a single trunk of a circumference of thirty eight (38) inches or more, measured at any point between six (6) inches to thirty six (36) inches above ground level; or
- (b) Any woody plant characterized by having a single trunk which has been found by the Park and Recreation Commission to have significance to the community, which plant is designated a "Heritage Tree."

CITY TREES:

Per RCC 29.70, it shall be unlawful for any person to cut, trim, prune, spray, brace, plant, move, remove or replace any [city] tree in any public street within the city or to cause the same to be done unless and until a written permit has first been obtained.



ENFORCEMENT:

Violation of the ordinance is subject to penalties. The fine for illegally pruning a tree holds an Administrative Penalty of \$500 PER TREE. The fine for illegal removal or destruction of a tree holds an Administrative Penalty of \$500 PER TREE, plus requiring a replacement tree equaling the appraised value of the original tree on the property using landscape specimens designated by the city.

The fine for failure to comply with a condition of the permit holds an Administrative Penalty of \$500 plus any mitigation towards compensating for the value loss of the tree. An ordinance violation could also be prosecuted as a misdemeanor. The penalty for a misdemeanor can be \$1,000 fine or six (6) months in jail.

Permit applications are available at:
Public Works Services Department,
1400 Broadway
Redwood City, CA 94063, or call
(650) 780-7464
and they will send you an application.

Once a permit application is filed, the tree is inspected, a recommendation is given and the permit is approved or denied. If a removal request is denied, information regarding the appeal process will be provided. There is no fee for the permit process. Inspections are completed within ten (10) working days of receipt of the permit application.