How to Apply for a Tree Permit

The City of Redwood City’s Tree Preservation Ordinance protects all trees regardless of species, location, or apparent age, when measured to be 12” or greater in diameter, or 38” in circumference – we call this an ‘ordinance’ or ‘permit’ size tree. The measurement is taken at the widest point of the tree trunk, between 6” and 36” above ground. Trees are a valuable resource, please help us preserve them.

If you have a question about:

**Street Trees** – All Street Trees are protected, regardless of size. Please contact our Public Works Department at (650) 780-7464, for further assistance.

**Park Trees** – All Park Trees are protected, regardless of size. Please contact our Parks, Recreation and Community Services Department at (650) 780-7250, for assistance.

**Private Property Trees** – A Tree Permit is required for removing a private property tree that is ordinance size. Please contact our Community Development Department at (650) 780-7295, for assistance, or submit a completed [Tree Permit Application](#) to get started.

**Tree Pruning on Private Property** – A permit is not required for pruning on private property. Our ordinance requires tree pruning consistent with professional industry standards. Pruning a neighbor’s tree, over your property line, requires their consent and must be done properly. Tree topping, and pollarding are not acceptable pruning methods, and should be avoided when possible.

**Tree Removal on Private Property** – A permit is required for tree removal and stump grinding of any permit size tree on private property. The Tree Permit Application requires a description of the number, species, and size of the tree(s), with supporting documentation for the condition, location, and contribution to the site and neighborhood. A Certified Arborist’s written report may be required, providing measurements, observations and findings (supporting criteria for removal), including a recommendation for removal. Professional replanting recommendations are appreciated.

**Replanting as a Requirement** - Our Tree Preservation Ordinance directs that we preserve, protect and when necessary, mitigate the impacts of tree removal upon our urban forest, by requiring replanting with equal or greater value of tree canopy and landscape assets. Reforestation has an immediate influence on local property values, promoting quality of life, and improving the general health and welfare of our environment and community. Replanting shall be included in the plot plan submittal, or accompanying landscape plans. Please refer to our [Master Tree List](#) for guidance.

**Emergency Tree Removal** – Public safety is a top priority, and the decision to remove a tree on this basis must be supported by a Certified Arborist’s Report, with appropriate documentation and photographs. A permit may be processed after the fact, and replanting will be required in most cases. In the event of removal as directed by authorized emergency personnel, the property owner or affected party should contact our City Arborist within 72 hours of the incident, for inspection and permitting.