Tree Permits – Why It Matters:

The City of Redwood City’s Tree Preservation Ordinance protects all trees regardless of species, age, or location; when measured at 6 inches above the ground, to be 12 inches or greater in diameter (wide), or at least 38 inches in circumference (around). We call these ‘ordinance’ size trees, requiring a permit for removal. Incorrectly cutting, or removing trees without a permit may be punishable by administrative fees, fines, and possible arrest with incarceration. Redwood City values trees, as a community 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 submit a completed Tree Permit Application online 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 ordinance 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 is required, providing measurements, observations and findings (addressing our 5 removal criteria), 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** – “Emergency Removal” must be qualified by a Certified Arborist’s Report, color photographs, and other support documents. A permit may be processed after the fact, and replanting will be required. In the event of removal as directed by authorized emergency personnel, the property owner or affected party shall contact our City Arborist within 72 hours of the incident, for inspection and permitting.