

Small Projects and Protected Trees

What to keep in mind for small residential and non-residential projects

1

These types of trees on private property are protected:

City trees that are planted and maintained by the City in the 10-foot easement on private property fronting public streets or in the public right of way.

Private trees that are on single-family properties when a permit is pulled for a project.

Trees of Significance that are trees planted within commercial, industrial, multifamily properties and homeowners association common areas that measure 5 inches or more in diameter at breast height.

The City has regulations to protect trees. An approved permit is required prior to any pruning work or removal. Modification of the areas within the dripline (directly located under the outer circumference of the tree branches) of these trees may also require a tree permit or City review, depending on the nature of the proposed work. See more detail below:



It is the responsibility of property owners to be aware of tree-related regulations before engaging in any activity that may impact existing trees.

If your project requires trees on your property to be removed:

- Proposed tree removals must be highlighted in the submitted project design, along with an arborist report for the site trees. The reasoning to remove the tree based on health, site plan, project design or other reasons must be clearly stated, along with any alternatives that may have been considered to retain the tree(s). An approved City tree or Private/Protected tree permit is required before the commencement of any work. **Note: an approved demolition permit does not entitle a property owner to remove trees.** Most tree removals will require mitigation to replace loss in tree diameter at breast height (DBH), via planting new trees or the payment of in-lieu fees. Tree removal requests can in some cases be referred to the Tree Appeal Board for review.

If your project requires trees on your property to be pruned:

- An approved Private/Protected tree permit is required to prune trees in commercial, multifamily or HOA common areas, or trees on single-family properties undergoing construction or renovation projects that require permits.

If your project includes work around trees that will be retained:

- Adequate protection measures are required around any trees that will remain in an area under construction. This includes any demolition, trenching, grading, construction, repair, alteration, expansion, removal or moving of any building, house or structure or other site work. Development plans and specification measures must include tree protection plans that are submitted with the project and approved by the City via a permit. Violation or failure to comply with the condition of permit approval may result in a penalty.

If your project involves planting trees:

- Certain projects or conditions of permit approval can require the planting of new trees. Species selection and planting specifications subject to approval by the Urban Forestry Program Manager. **Always contact 811 before you dig.**

Not sure of what applies to your project?

To find out if a particular tree is a City tree or for any other tree-related questions, please contact the Urban Forestry Division at 530-757-5633 or CityTrees@CityofDavis.org

Tree Protection Plans

Protect Existing Trees During Construction

2

Tree protection is essential during construction projects to protect existing trees in and near the construction area.

A **Tree Protection Zone (TPZ)** will be designated around a tree's **dripline**, directly under the outer circumference of the tree's branches. This is a critical area to protect, as roots located here provide stability and access to nutrients for the tree. Trenching, paving, storing construction equipment or materials and driving heavy equipment across unprotected roots or altering drainage patterns within and near this area can hurt the tree.



Some species of trees, like oaks, may require larger Tree Protection Zones, as they can have critical root zones that extend far beyond the canopy of the tree. Be sure to work with a ISA certified arborist when developing your tree protection plan to identify when larger protection areas are required.



For any project requiring a building permit or discretionary project review, a tree protection plan must be submitted with a Tree Modification Permit Application that includes:

- Objectives for tree conservation in conjunction with the American National Standards Institute (ANSI) A300 standards, part 5 and the International Society of Arboriculture (ISA) Best Management Practices-“Managing Trees During Construction.”
- A scale drawing designating location, species, trunk diameter measured at diameter at breast height (DBH) of each tree and the dripline of each tree onsite and within 15 feet of the site, with the Tree Protection Zone accurately depicted. Additionally, photos of general site conditions may be required and/or accurate locations of existing trees by a licensed surveyor may be required and reflected on Tree Preservation Plan.
- Location of proposed and existing structures and/or improvements, including but not limited to: trenching, paving, grade changes, building heights, lighting plans, etc.
- An arborist-prepared inventory (with ID numbers matching to scale drawing) of all trees on site, their condition and recommendations for the treatment for each tree.
- Project contact person, with name, phone, address, and email address, who will be responsible for implementing and maintaining the approved Tree Preservation Plan.
- Tree Preservation Specifications
- If project includes removals of existing trees, please see the other side of this flier.

Tree Preservation Specifications

For detailed information on the tree preservation specifications that should be incorporated into the Tree Preservation Plan, scan the QR code to the right using a tablet or mobile device (data rates may apply).

Note that any preservation measures put into place as approved in the Tree Protection Plan must remain in place until the conclusion of the project.

