

## Are certain trees protected in the City?

Yes, the City of Pleasanton's tree Preservation Ordinance (Municipal Code Chapter 17.16) has protected Heritage Trees for more than 30 years. City-owned trees are maintained by the City Parks Maintenance Division.

Additionally, any tree that was required as part of a development approval by the Planning Division requires approval from the Planning Division before removal.

## What is a Heritage Tree?

A Heritage Tree is defined as any tree, regardless of species, with a trunk circumference of 55 inches or more when measured at a point 4 ½ feet above ground level; or any tree, regardless of species, that is 35 feet or more in height.



## What is the Tree Preservation Ordinance?

In 1971, the City of Pleasanton adopted Chapter 17.16 of the Municipal Code—The Ordinance recognizes certain trees as “Heritage Trees” and protects them from removal, destruction, or disfigurement. The Ordinance applies to “Heritage Trees” on both public and private property.

## Why are Heritage Trees protected?

Heritage trees contribute to the beauty and livability of our City and provide important environmental benefits to the community.

## Still have Questions?



*The City of Pleasanton is committed to the preservation of “Heritage Trees” throughout the community and to educating residents about the benefits of trees. If you have any questions about the information in this brochure, please contact us.*

*“Heritage Trees”:*

*City Landscape Architect*

**925-931-5672**

*City-owned Trees:*

*Parks Maintenance Division*

**925-931-5565**

*Trees Required by Conditions of Approval:*

*Planning Division*

**925-931-5600**

**Monday\* - Friday, 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.**

**\*Planners are not available on Mondays from 9:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.**

*E-mail:*

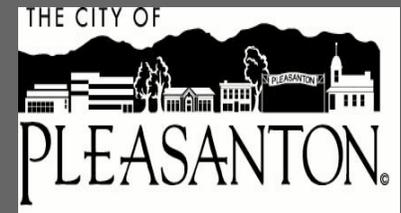
**<http://www.cityofpleasantonca.gov/contact>**

*Brochure prepared by the Planning Division*

## Tree Removal

### **When do I need a tree removal permit?**

The removal of “Heritage Trees” or trees that were required on a prior development project needs the City to grant approval for removal through the permitting process.



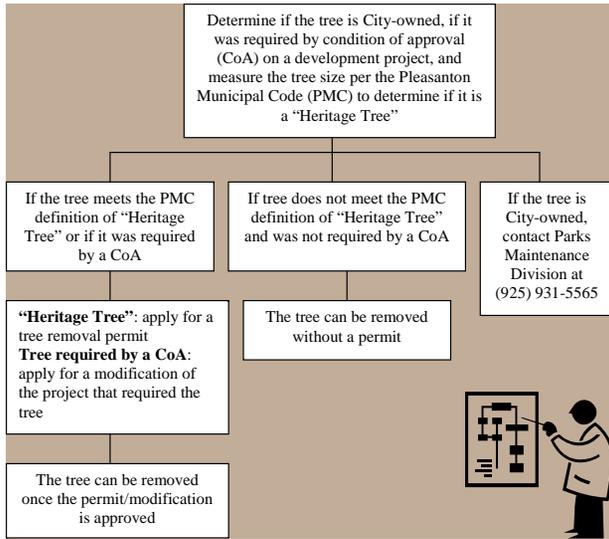
**City of Pleasanton  
Operations Services  
Department**

**3333 Busch Road  
P.O. Box 520  
Pleasanton, CA. 94566-0802**

**Tel: (925) 931-5514  
FAX: (925) 931-5595**



## What is the process?



## What does the City do with my request to remove a "Heritage Tree"?

Upon receipt of your application, a staff member will make a site visit to examine the tree(s) and the circumstances surrounding your request. The Director of Community Development or his designated representative makes the final decision as to whether the tree(s) should be preserved or removed.

## What is the criteria for removing a tree?

Generally, the Ordinance allows the Director to permit the removal for the following reasons:

1. The tree is dead, dying or diseased, and good forestry practices cannot be undertaken to preserve the tree; or
2. The tree is in such a dangerous or hazardous condition as to threaten or endanger the safety of people, structures, property, or other Heritage Trees.

## Can the Director's determination be appealed?

The Director's decision may be appealed to the Heritage Tree Board of Appeals. The appeal process is described in the Tree Preservation Ordinance.

## What if the tree was required by a Condition of Approval (CoA)?

Trees that were required to be planted as a condition of approval (CoA) are required to remain. A request to modify the CoA must follow the process that the original approval was subject to. Typically, a replacement tree will be required. Please contact the Planning Division for more information (925)931-5600.

## What documents do I submit?

If your tree removal request is for a tree that was required by a CoA, then you must refer to the respective application type (PUD-Mod, PADR, PDR, etc.)

### For removal of a "Heritage Tree":

#### Application:

Applications can be obtained on-line at:

<http://www.ci.pleasanton.ca.us/pdf/heritage-tree-app.pdf>  
OR

From the Department of Parks and Community Services or the Engineering Division.

OR

Write a letter to the Director of Community Development:

P.O. Box 520  
Pleasanton, CA 94566

The application/letter should include any relevant information about the tree(s) and the reason(s) that the tree(s) needs to be removed.

## How long does the process take?

Normally, the process takes about **1 to 2 weeks**. This period will be longer if an arborist report is needed. A request to remove a tree required by a CoA would follow the time line established for the respective permit type (PUD-Mod, PADR, PDR, etc.)

## What is a "City-owned" street tree?

City-owned trees are those trees typically located in the planting area between the sidewalk and street curb, in parkways/medians, and trees located within the City right-of-way in the Historic Downtown District.

## Who maintains City-owned trees?

The Parks Maintenance Division maintains the trees in the

City right-of-way (medians and downtown). City-owned trees must not be pruned, maintained, or removed except under the direction of the City's Parks Maintenance Division. The only exceptions are those trees planted as part of a commercial development or privately maintained business or homeowners association. Please contact the Parks Maintenance Division at (925) 931-5565 for additional information.

City-owned trees located at the back of a curb must be watered and the planting strip must be kept free of weeds and unsafe objects by the property owner.

## Can I prune my "Heritage Tree"?

Normal maintenance/pruning of "Heritage Trees" does not require a permit. However, all pruning of "Heritage Trees" must be in conformance with the current tree pruning standards of the International Society of Arboriculture (ISA), and must be performed by a licensed contractor who is familiar with those standards. Pruning of "Heritage Trees" that are not in conformance with the ISA standards may be cause for civil penalty .



## What assistance does the City provide?

The City does not provide actual tree services. However, the City does maintain an approved Consulting Arborists list for use when/if an arborist report is needed.

## What if the tree is causing neighbor disputes?

The City does not typically require private trees to be removed or pruned to resolve neighbor disputes. Neighbor conflicts about such things as branches hanging over property lines, roots damaging fences, or impacts to pool maintenance are all civil matters.

Staff would recommend that the neighbors refer to the book, *Neighbor Law*, by Cora Jordan, when researching the legal aspects of tree impacts to private property.

Additionally, staff would also recommend that neighbors try to work out their differences amongst themselves.

If the matter cannot be resolved through communication, the parties may choose to utilize a mediation service or a civil court process.

