

What trees are protected?

The City of Pleasanton's Tree Preservation Ordinance (Municipal Code Chapter 17.16) has protected Heritage Trees since 1971. The Ordinance recognizes certain trees as "Heritage Trees" and protects them from removal, destruction or disfigurement on both public and private property.

What is a Heritage Tree?

A Heritage Tree is defined in the Municipal Code as any tree, regardless of species, with a trunk circumference of 55 inches or more when measured at a point 4-1/2 feet above ground level; or any tree, regardless of species, that is 35 feet or more in height.

Why are Heritage Trees protected?

Heritage Trees do the following:

- enhance the natural scenic beauty of the City
- sustain the long-term potential increase in property values
- moderate the effect of extreme temperatures
- prevent the erosion of topsoil
- help create an identity and quality which enhances the attractiveness of the City to visitors

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.

City of Pleasanton
Landscape Architecture Division

200 Old Bernal Avenue
P.O. Box 520
Pleasanton, Ca 94566-0802

Privately-owned trees:
Landscape Architect
treepermit@cityofpleasantonca.gov
925-931-5672

City-owned trees:
Parks Maintenance Division
925-931-5500



What you need to know about Heritage Trees in Pleasanton...

The City of Pleasanton is proud to have held the title of Tree City USA since 2016! We have a robust urban forest comprised of both public and private trees. Our Tree Preservation Ordinance protects the urban forest on both public and private lands. Read this brochure to familiarize yourself with all things *tree* in Pleasanton!



Homeowners



Do I need permission to remove my tree?

If your tree is a Heritage Tree then you need a permit from the City to remove it.

How do I apply for a tree removal permit?

[CLICK HERE](#)

or

Go on the City's website: cityofpleasantonca.gov

Government> Engineering>Landscape Architecture
click "Heritage Tree Removal Application" and submit

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

The City Arborist will visually inspect the tree(s) and the circumstances surrounding your request. The request will be evaluated against the reasons stated in the Municipal Code section 17.16.020. A response will be provided within 2 weeks from inspection.

Can the determination be appealed?

Yes, the appeal process is described in the Tree Preservation Ordinance (Section 17.16.040).

Can the city provide financial assistance?

The property owner is responsible for trees on their property. Visit TreesAreGood.org for a list of qualified tree professionals.

Developers



I'm developing property...what do I need to do?

Talk with the Community Development Department at (925) 931-5300.

What if my development requires tree removal?

The Planning Division will provide direction regarding your options. An arborist report from the City's list of approved consulting arborists and/or mitigation for tree removal may be required. For further information refer to Section 17.16.050 of the Municipal Code.

Who determines mitigation for tree removal?

The Planning and Landscape Architecture Divisions will determine appropriate mitigation based on the development application. Mitigation may include, but not be limited to, replanting, bonding, or payment to the City to fund urban forestry projects/programs within the City.

Maintenance



Can I prune my tree?

Normal maintenance/pruning of trees does not require a permit. 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 familiar with those standards. Pruning of Heritage Trees that are not in conformance with the ISA standards may be cause for a civil penalty.

Can I prune a city-owned tree?

You may not prune any City-owned tree. City-owned trees are those trees typically located in the planting area between the sidewalk and street curb. City trees may be found in medians, parkways, parks and open spaces, and the historic downtown. To determine ownership you may contact the Landscape Architect Division.

Can I prune my neighbor's tree?

The City recommends that you work with your neighbor on a mutually acceptable pruning solution. For further information please refer to California Civil Code § 3346 and California Code of Civil Procedure § 733.