



GUIDELINES FOR CITY STREET TREE REMOVAL

I. Santa Clara Municipal Code

Santa Clara Municipal Code 12.35.050 (e) states that the City shall maintain criteria for evaluating city tree removals that may be updated from time to time. No tree shall be removed unless it meets the removal criteria, unless specified in an approved mitigation plan.

II. Street Tree Removals Approved Upon These Determinations

A. Hazard/Public Danger

A City maintained street tree is structurally compromised or is a hazard to the public, as determined by the City.

Remove the street tree at the City's expense.

B. Undesirable Street Tree

A request to remove a street tree that is considered an unsuitable species: Eucalyptus globulus (Blue Gum), Liquidambar styraciflua (Sweet Gum), Pinus (Pines), Ailanthus altissima (Tree of Heaven), Liriodendron tulipifera (Tulip tree), Ulmus pumila (Siberian Elm), Ceratonia siliqua (Carob tree), and Palm trees. All requests must come from the property owner and pertain to the property where the tree is located.

A permit to remove the street tree at the property owner's expense will be granted unless the tree qualifies for A or C of the removal criteria.

C. Limb/Branch Failure

More than three (3) repeated failures of structural, lateral and/or scaffolding branches in the past five (5) years.

Remove the street tree at the City's expense.

D. Sewer/Water Line Damage

More than three (3) reported intrusions within a five (5) year period which can be confirmed, receipts from a plumber or verification of work performed by the City Water/Sewer are needed for confirmation. All requests must come from the property owner and pertain to the property where the tree is located.

A permit to remove the street tree at the property owner's expense will be granted.

E. Private Hardscape, Landscape, Home Foundation Damage Caused by Roots

All requests must come from the property owner and pertain to the property where the tree is located.

- The trunk of the tree(s) are five (5) feet or less from the existing residence, secondary unit or garage.



- That the tree(s) are a detriment to the subject property and cannot be adequately supported according to good urban forestry practices due to the overplanting or overcrowding of trees on the subject property.

A permit to remove the street tree at the property owner's expense will be granted.

F. Landscape Renovations

Tree removal to accommodate private landscape renovations will be considered on a case by case basis. Final determination will be made by Department of Public Works.

A permit to remove the street tree at the property owner's expense will be granted.

G. Public Concrete, Curb, Gutter and Sidewalk and Asphalt Streets

At the City's sole discretion, a determination is made that a tree must be removed to maintain sufficient ADA access or prevent extensive and repetitive damage of public rights-of-way that will likely cause the City to incur excessive capital improvement costs.

City may remove the street tree at the City's expense.

H. Tree Allergy

Copy of allergy report from physician showing positive reaction to the specific street tree at the property owners home requesting the removal. All requests must come from the property owner and pertain to the property where the tree is located.

A permit to remove the street tree at property owner's expense will be granted.

II. Reasons or Conditions Not Acceptable for Removal

- Dislikes the street tree due to subjective/aesthetic reasons
- Leaf litter, size of the street tree
- Resolvable sign/utility clearance issues
- Solar power production conflict

III. Replacement Guidelines for Residential Street Trees

Per section 12.35.050 (i) of the Santa Clara Municipal Code, if a vacant site where a street tree was removed is suitable to support a new street tree, the site shall be replanted with a suitable tree species from the City tree list.

IV. Heritage Trees

Per section 12.35.090 of the Santa Clara Municipal Code, an application for a tree removal permit for a heritage tree must be filed with the Community Development Department to be considered for removal. City Council shall have the final review and determination on applications for the removal of heritage trees.

Effective January 2022

