

## THE VALUE OF STREET TREES

Our street trees work for us every day, providing benefits that directly improve our quality of life. Trees purify and cool the air, reduce storm water runoff, and conserve energy. They increase property values, beautify neighborhoods, and improve human health and well-being. Sidewalks provide safe pedestrian travel throughout the community.



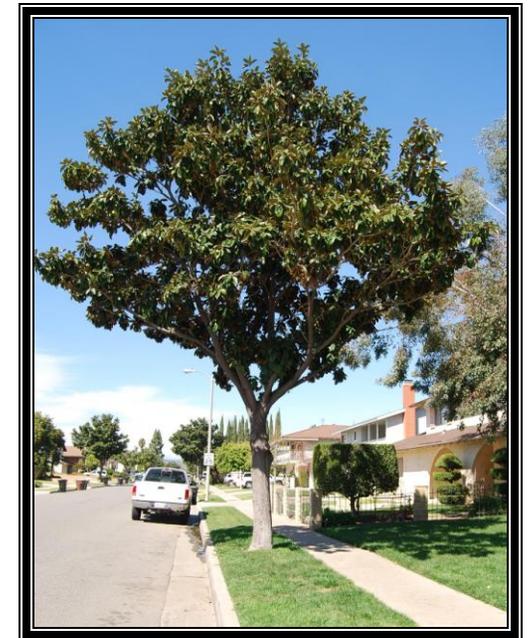
Public Works Department

401 East Chapman Avenue  
Placentia, California 92870  
Phone: (714) 993-8131

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## SIDEWALK AND STREET TREE MAINTENANCE INFORMATION

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# FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

**Q: Who is responsible for maintaining the street tree in front of my house?**

**A:** Since June 2, 1954, the Placentia Municipal Code has placed financial responsibility for the maintenance of residential street trees on the adjacent property owner.

**Q: If I am responsible for the tree, why can't I cut it down or plant whatever I want?**

**A:** Trees are subject to the same oversight as any improvement located within the public right-of-way to insure compliance with current rules and regulations.

**Q: Do I need a permit to prune my street tree?**

**A:** Yes. Encroachment permits and licensed contractors are required for any work performed within the public right-of-way. You may request a permit application by calling the City at (714) 993-8131 or pick up a permit application in person at City Hall.

**Q: Will the City prune my street tree?**

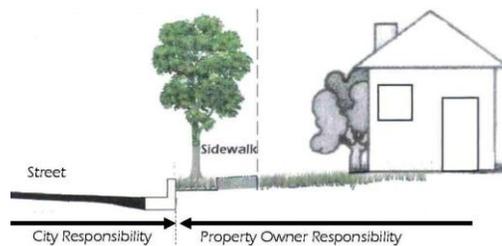
**A:** Yes. Upon receipt of an approved permit the applicant may choose to have the work performed by the City. If the applicant elects this course, he shall deposit with the City the amount of the cost estimated and inscribed on the application... (PMC 14.12.100).

**Q: How much does a pruning permit cost?**

**A:** There is currently no fee for a street tree pruning permit. The permit is used to ensure that all work is performed in a manner consistent with industry standards and which promotes proper tree development. The cost for actual pruning varies based on the contractor, the tree, and site conditions.

**Q: What conditions will qualify my street tree for removal?**

**A:** There are a variety of criteria that must be evaluated before a street tree is approved for removal. These criteria are outlined in the Placentia Municipal Code Section 14.12.110



**Q: How much does a removal permit cost?**

**A:** There is currently no cost for a removal or replacement permit. The cost for actual removal or replacement varies based on the contractor, the tree, and site conditions.

**Q: Do I have to replace my street tree once it is removed?**

**A:** No. According to the City's Tree Policy, once a tree has been lawfully removed, the homeowner shall have the option of not having the tree replaced.

**Q: Can I replant a different species than the one listed on my permit?**

**A:** No. The Master Street Tree Plan includes alternative species for most areas. To replant with a species that is different from that which was originally planted you must consult the Master Plan for acceptable alternatives before filling out the permit application. If the change in species is approved, your permit will clearly identify the authorized tree species.

**Q: After receiving my permit how much notice is required before starting the work?**

**A:** During the permit application process, coordination for inspection times will be established. No work may be performed without on-site inspection.

**Q: Who is responsible for maintaining or repairing the sidewalk in front of my house?**

**A:** The State of California Streets and Highways Code places responsibility for the maintenance of sidewalks within the public right-of-way on the adjacent property owner.

**Q: Can I be held responsible in a court of law for injury caused by a raised or buckled sidewalk in front of my house?**

**A:** Yes. Liability for personal injury caused by unsafe sidewalks can be assigned to the adjacent property owner.