

What is the Urban Forest Protection Ordinance?

In June 2020, the City adopted Ordinance No. O-2020-04, which added a new Chapter 14.12 to the Placentia Municipal Code and, thereby, codifies the Urban Forest Management Plan in an enforceable Citywide ordinance. This Ordinance adopted a tree removal process that establishes criteria for the orderly removal of City trees when appropriate. This Ordinance protects the indiscriminate removal of healthy, mature City trees; prohibits the destruction, “severe pruning,” and “topping” of City trees; maintains trees and mitigate hazards; and provides for the enforcement and administration of tree protection.

What is a City Tree?

City Trees are defined as any tree located in a place under ownership or control of the City including streets, parkways, open spaces, and public parks.

Why are City Trees protected?

The City of Placentia recognizes that the environmental, economic, social and public health benefits provided by the urban forest along its streets and in its parks, are critical to maintaining an attractive City.

Are there any penalties for violating the Ordinance?

Any person that removes, damages, injures, or destroys a City tree shall pay a fine equal to the full amount of the replacement value of the tree, or \$5,000, whichever is greater.

Still have Questions?

The City of Placentia is committed to the preservation of the City's Urban Forest 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 Placentia
Public Works Department
401 East Chapman Avenue
Placentia, CA 92870

Phone: (714) 993-8148
Email: urbanforest@placentia.org
Hours: Monday—Thursday,
7:30 a.m. — 6:00 p.m.

www.placentia.org/urbanforest



Urban Forest Protection Ordinance FAQ's



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Public Works Department
401 East Chapman Avenue
Placentia, CA 92870
Phone: (714) 993-8148

How do I request a City Tree to be removed?

To submit a request to remove a City Tree, please contact us at (714) 993-8148 or urbanforest@placentia.org.

What does the City do with my request to remove a “City 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 Public Works or his/her designated representative makes the 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 trees.

Can the Director’s determination be appealed?

The Director’s decision may be appealed to the Streetscape and Transportation Advisory Commission. If your application was denied, you may submit a written request to the Commission within five (5) business days of the denial. The appeal process is fully described in the Urban Forest Protection Ordinance.

If my tree removal application is appealed and approved by the Commission, do I have to replace the removed tree?

If the appeal is granted by the Commission, the cost for the removal of the tree(s) and stump(s) will be borne by the applicant. Applicant will also be responsible for the cost of procuring and planting two (2), 24” box replacement trees. Such funds will be remitted to the City’s Tree Replacement and Planting Fund, as described in Section 14.12.090 of the PMC, for that purpose.

What if my tree removal request is a part of an entitlement/development project?

You will need to fill out a **Tree Survey Plan Application** dedicated for development projects. Any applicant seeking discretionary land use entitlement application and/or building and engineering permits (including but not limited to grading, demolition or building permits) shall submit a Tree Survey Plan and Arborist Report separate from, but consistent with the required site plan, to assess tree impacts associated and establish tree protection measures as described in Section 14.12.120 of the PMC. This application is available online at www.placentia.org/urbanforest.

How long does the process take?

Normally, the process takes about 1 to 2 weeks. This period will be longer if a Third-Party Peer Arborist Review is deemed necessary.

If my tree removal request is approved as part of an entitlement/development project, do I have to replace the removed tree(s)?

Yes, a City tree approved for removal as shall be replaced using the following tree replacement matrix as fully described in Section 14.12.120 of the PMC.

Trunk of Removed Tree	Replacement Trees	
	Number	Size
8-12 inches	4	15-gallon, or, 24-inch box
	2	24-inch box
13-18 inches	8	15-gallon, or, 24-inch box, or, 36-inch box
	4	24-inch box, or, 36-inch box
19-36 inches	8	24-inch box, or, 36-inch box
	4	36-inch box
37+ inches	12	24-inch box, or, 36-inch box
	8	36-inch box

Who maintains City Trees?

The Public Works Department maintains all City Trees. City Trees must not be pruned, maintained, or removed except under the direction of the City’s Public Works Department. The only exceptions are those trees planted as part of a commercial development or privately maintained business or homeowners association. Please contact the Public Works Department at (714) 993-8148 or by email at urbanforest@placentia.org for additional information.

What if the tree is causing 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.

Where do I find the Municipal Code?

Online at: <http://qcode.us/codes/placentia/>