



City of Placentia
Public Works Department
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www.placentia.org

CITY TREE PROTECTION POLICY (FOR DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS)

Are you proposing to remove City Trees in conjunction with your improvements? Please review this important information regarding Placentia's Urban Forest Protection Ordinance, Chapter 14.12 of the Placentia Municipal Code (PMC).

SUMMARY OF URBAN FOREST PROTECTION ORDINANCE

On June 2, 2020, the City Council adopted the Urban Forest Protection Ordinance (Ordinance) via Ordinance No. O-2020-04, which regulates the planting, removal and maintenance of City trees. City trees are defined as any tree which is located in a place or area under ownership or control of the City including but without limitation to streets, parkways, open space, and City-owned property. Per the Ordinance, the removal, relocation, trimming/pruning of City Tree by anyone other than the City is prohibited. The Ordinance includes protections for City Trees during private development and construction projects and a process for considering tree removals as part of private development projects (Section 14.12.120 of the PMC).

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 with proposed demolition or development, and establish tree protection measures for demolition or development when activity would occur within the dripline of a City Tree(s).

TREE SURVEY PLAN REQUIREMENTS :

1. Tree Survey Plan shall be consistent with a site survey prepared by a licensed Surveyor or registered Civil Engineer with the existing trees plotted with accurate trunk locations and the dripline areas.
2. The Existing Tree Plan shall be a separate sheet that depicts:
 - a. Property lines and easements;
 - b. The locations of existing tree(s) or groups of trees, including driplines with each tree numbered, and identified by trunk diameter at breast height (DBH), with an "X" through each tree proposed for removal, including onsite trees and trees adjacent to the project site, with driplines overhanging the project site;
 - c. Identifies all City Tree(s) located upon the property and identifies those City Trees that are proposed to be removed or that may be affected by the proposed development;
 - d. A table listing each tree by number, DBH, genus, species, common name and health;
 - e. For Demolition permits, show the building footprint for the structure to be removed;
 - f. The footprint of any existing or new structures, including additions;
 - g. The location of existing and proposed site utilities, including water, sewer, drainage, gas, underground electrical, voice/data, septic field, well head, or other.

ARBORIST REPORT REQUIREMENTS:

An applicant shall submit a report from a Certified Arborist describing the condition of existing trees, the anticipated impacts of grading, trenching and construction on City trees and recommending migration and specific protective measures to be implemented prior to commencement of grading or construction to minimize potential adverse applicants. The report, based on the findings of the tree survey plan and other necessary information, shall be used to determine the health of existing trees, the effects of the proposed development upon the City trees and recommendations for any special precautions necessary for the preservation of the City trees. The report shall also include the following:

- a. Assessment of the tree condition for all City trees, and any measures necessary to protect trees on site during demolition or construction, including any remedial measures necessary to sustain impacted trees
- b. Identifies which City tree(s) are proposed for removal.
- c. Reasons for proposing removal of a City tree(s).

- d. An appraisal of all trees to be preserved and proposed for removal utilizing the most recent edition of the Guide for Plant Appraisal (published by the International Society of Arboriculture).
- e. The number of replacement trees calculated using the City's tree replacement matrix as noted in subsection F of Section 14.12.120 of the Placentia Municipal Code.
- f. The number of required on-site replacement trees would inhibit healthy growth (e.g., overcrowding of new trees; interfere with roots and canopy of existing protected trees and street trees).
- g. General health of tree to be trimmed, cut down or removed.

TREE REPLACEMENT REQUIREMENTS :

Any City tree approved for removal as part of discretionary land use entitlement application and/or building and engineering permit application will be replaced using the following tree replacement matrix:

Tree Replacement Matrix

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

If on-site tree replacement is not feasible, a payment in-lieu fee will be required. The payment-in-lieu fee is equal to the estimated cost required to buy, transport, and plant the number of required replacement trees. The cost will be determined based upon the City's current contract rates for tree removal and planting services. These funds will be deposited to the City's Tree Replacement and Planting Fund for planting and tree replacement to be conducted by the Public Works Department.

PROTECTION OF PROTECTED TREES DURING CONSTRUCTION:

A **Tree Protection Plan** will be required for demolition, grading, building permit applications that will impact a City Tree(s) (Section 14.12.130 of the PMC). The plan shall be prepared and signed by a certified arborist. The plan needs to be prepared according to ISA ANSI 300 standards for tree construction and construction management. The plan shall ensure that the tree, including its root system, is adequately protected from potential harm during demolition, grading and construction that could cause damage to the City Tree(s).

APPLICATION REVIEW PROCESS:

1. Applicant will submit a completed Tree Survey Plan Application with the required Tree Survey Plan, Arborist Report and/or Tree Protection Plan. Application is available at www.placentia.org/urbanforest.
2. The application will be reviewed in conjunction with the submitted permit or land use application.
3. The City will inspect the property and proposed tree(s) for removal.
4. If deemed necessary, the City will utilize a certified third-party peer arborist to review the application.
5. If the City determines that the proposed tree removal meets the criteria for tree removal associated with a permit or discretionary land use application, the tree removal request will be approved with the applicable tree replacement requirements.
6. The City may require an applicant to post a cash deposit or other performance security to guarantee the applicant's compliance with conditions of approval and City provisions regarding tree protection and preservation.

FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

The entire Ordinance can be found online at www.placentia.org/urbanforest or at <http://qcode.us/codes/placentia/revisions/O-2020-04.pdf>. If you have any questions or need additional information, please contact the Public Works Department at (714) 993-8148 or by email at urbanforest@placentia.org.