

City of San Jose Tree Regulations --**STREET TREE**

compiled by OCF

Department of Transportation (DOT)-- Arborist Office

Arborist's Office # (408) 277-2762 email: arborist@sanjoseca.gov

*Definition: A Street Tree is located within **10 feet** of the curb, or **30 feet** from the center line of the street if no curb.
Property owner has responsibility to maintain the street trees adjacent to their property.*

Permit	Application Process	Things to know
Live Tree Removal	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Request a Live Street Tree Removal Permit from Arborist's Office. 2. Field inspection by staff from the Arborist's Office. 3. If at least one of the criteria (see left) has clearly been met, the tree will be posted with a notice of impending removal, as well as door hangers placed on the homes within 150' of the tree. The posting will be in place for 17 days, allowing time for other residents who might object to the tree removal to file a written letter of protest. 4. If a valid protest is received within the time period, an informal hearing is then scheduled to further discuss the matter. <p>or, If no protest is received, a permit is issued within a few days and mailed to the property owner.</p> <p>\$ Property owner is responsible for removing & replacing the tree.</p>	<p>Tree Removal Permit criteria; If the tree is:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. dead or dying; 2. seriously diseased; 3. in or creates a hazardous condition; 4. a detrimental species that is disapproved for planting in the city's street tree plan; 5. interferes with high tension electrical lines and the problem cannot be corrected; 6. has caused extensive concrete damage; 7. has done extensive sewer system damage. <p>Q: Do I have to replace my street tree once it is removed?</p> <p>A: In most cases the answer is YES. Current City of San José standards establish that at least 1 tree be planted in front of interior single-family lots and 3 trees be planted on corner single-family lots.</p> <p><small>[In some cases, there will be obstructions (close proximity to street lights, fire hydrants, utility vaults, stop signs, etc.) which may prevent the replanting of a new tree.]</small></p>
Dead Tree Removal	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Request a Dead Street Tree Removal Permit from Arborist's Office. 2. Field inspection by staff from the Arborist's Office. 3. The tree will be posted. (There usually is no reason to hold a protest hearing since the tree is dead.) 4. Permit is issued. <p>\$ Property owner is responsible for removing & replacing the tree. (With dead trees, the City of San José can assist the property owner by removing the trunk and canopy of the tree, but the property owner is responsible for grinding the stump).</p>	<p>Call Our City Forest for FREE TREES!</p>
Planting	<p>Contact OCF to obtain planting permit and get your trees for free. Otherwise:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Request a Street Tree Planting Permit from Arborist's Office. 2. An arborist inspector visits your property frontage to see if the site is conducive for st. tree planting. If so, the inspector will put a green "T" mark on your curb, as an approved planting location. 3. Arborist's Office sends you the permit, <i>it includes: ~ designated tree species of planting; ~ how to properly plant the tree.</i> 4. If the species selected is not to your liking, contact the Arborist's Office in writing or email. <p>\$ Property owner is responsible for purchasing and planting the tree.</p>	<p>Call Our City Forest for FREE TREES!</p>
Pruning	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Request a Street Tree Pruning Permit from Arborist's Office. 2. Receive the permit, it includes <i>~ specifications on how to properly prune street trees; ~ a list of tree companies registered with the City of San José.</i> <p>\$ Property owner is responsible for pruning the tree. Make sure the worker you hire is properly licensed and insured. (not required to use companies on the San Jose City list).</p>	<p>Topping or severe pruning of more than 25% of the tree's canopy within a growing season is not permitted, except with special permission due to an emergency situation.</p>
Root Trimming	<p>If street tree is lifting the sidewalk or curb, property owner is responsible in case of injury.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Request a Street Tree Root Trimming Permit from Arborist's Office. <p>\$ Property owner is responsible for properly cut the root before it does further damage.</p> <p>??? Call the DOT Sidewalks Section (408) 277-3158 for questions about repairing or replacing sidewalk.</p>	<p>It is important that the root is severed cleanly rather than shredded so the tree will be able to close off the wound in a short period of time.</p>

\$: Currently there are **no fees to obtain a street tree permit**, but the property owner is responsible for hiring people to do the work.