



# Protected Tree Regulations



The City of Arcadia is a "Tree City USA." Trees are essential to the character and charm of Arcadia, therefore the City has adopted a Tree Preservation Ordinance to help homeowners care for their trees.

The City's Tree Preservation Ordinance was established to recognize oaks, sycamores, and other mature trees as significant aesthetic and ecological resources as well as valuable environmental assets. The intent of the tree regulations is to preserve and enhance property values through conserving and protecting trees which add to the distinctive and unique aesthetic character of many areas in the City.

## What types of trees are Protected?

These regulations protect mature trees of certain species, size, and/or location within a property. Trees that fall under these restrictions and may require a permit are:

- Oak trees, including Englemann Oak, Coast Live Oak, and California Live Oak with a trunk diameter larger than four inches.
- Any other living oak tree with a trunk diameter larger than twelve inches.
- Sycamore trees with a trunk diameter larger than six inches.
- Other mature trees, except the Unprotected Trees listed below, with a trunk diameter larger than twelve inches.

**Unprotected Trees:** There are several species of trees that are not protected and therefore not subject to these regulations including Fruit and Nut trees, Ficus, Eucalyptus, Palm trees, and more. Visit [ArcadiaCA.gov/protectedtrees](http://ArcadiaCA.gov/protectedtrees) for the full list.

## When do I need a permit?

- **Diseased or Hazardous Tree:** Permits for diseased or hazardous trees are processed quickly. If it is determined by the City designee that the tree is dead or otherwise hazardous, a tree report may not be necessary. Otherwise, a Certified Arborist report is required.
- **Healthy Tree Removal:** If you need to remove a healthy Protected Tree, you will need to apply for a permit and provide a report from a certified Arborist.
- **Encroachment:** If work requires encroaching into the area of a Protected Tree, you will need to apply for a permit and provide a report from a certified Arborist.

A permit is not required for tree pruning, trimming or limb removal. However, any tree maintenance should be done in accordance with written recommendation from a Certified Arborist. This report does not need to be submitted to the City but should be kept for your records.

## Are there any exceptions?

**The following situations are exempt from the Protected Tree requirement:**

- **Emergency Situation:** No permit is required when a Protected Tree is damaged by a natural disaster, or when it has been determined that the tree poses an imminent threat to public safety or general welfare.
- **Visual Barriers:** Removal or relocation of a Protected Tree is necessary to obtain adequate line-of-sight distances as required by the City designee.
- **Public Utility:** Actions taken for the maintenance, and/or protection of existing electrical power, communication lines, flood control area, or other property of a public utility.

**For more information on Protected Trees, including the full regulations, a list of unprotected trees, and application forms, visit [ArcadiaCA.gov/protectedtrees](http://ArcadiaCA.gov/protectedtrees)**