

Definitions

DBH: The diameter of the tree at breast height, measured across the widest face of the trunk at four and one-half (4.5') feet above natural grade.

Protected Trees: Any woody, perennial plant having a single main stem or trunk of ten (10") inches or more DBH at four and one-half (4.5') feet above natural grade, or multiple secondary stems totaling ten (10") inches or more DBH at four and one-half (4.5') feet above natural grade. A single or multi-stemmed shrub or bush is not a protected tree.

Pruning: Selectively cutting or trimming to enhance the health and structure of a tree, improve balance and aesthetics, promote healthy growth or prevent damage.



Resources

Parks & Recreation Department
30 Twin Pines Lane
Belmont, CA 94002
Phone: 650.595.7441
Fax: 650.595.7419
Email: parksrec@belmont.gov

Community Development Department
1 Twin Pines Lane
Belmont, CA. 94002
Phone: 650-595.7417
Fax: 650.637.2983
Email: ComDev@belmont.gov

For full text of the Ordinance:
www.belmont.gov/MunicipalCode



City of Belmont

Tree Ordinance

Municipal Code Chapter 25



Goals and Purpose



The City of Belmont is forested by trees indigenous to the San Francisco Peninsula, as well as non-native species introduced to the area. Many of the trees are large mature trees providing a tree canopy and natural environment which contribute to the uniqueness of our community. Residents benefit from trees through energy conservation, air purification, and noise and wind mitigation. The majority of real property within the City is on hillside and sloping terrain, where trees perform the function of preventing erosion and lessening the danger of floods and landslides. Trees enhance the aesthetic quality of life, as well as the property values of residents.

For these reasons, the City Council finds it in the public interest, convenience, necessity and welfare to enact regulations promoting the healthy growth of trees, and controlling the removal of trees within the City.

Frequently Asked Questions

When is a Permit Required?

A Permit is required when removing any tree species with a stem or trunk diameter greater than ten (10") inches diameter at breast height or any multi stem or multi trunks totaling greater than ten (10") inches diameter at breast height. (See definitions)

How do I get a Permit?

For tree removals not associated with Development Permits, call the Parks and Recreation Department at 650-595-7441.

For tree removal applications associated with Development Permits, call the Community Development Department at 650-595-7417.

Is there a permit fee?

There is no fee for consulting City staff. The City encourages you call with tree related questions. If a permit is issued, a required fee as set in the current City Master Fee Schedule will be collected.

Can I prune my trees?

Pruning, care and maintenance of trees is allowed as long as the pruning does not damage the tree.

Questions Continued

Can I cut a neighbors tree that is overhanging onto my property?

To avoid legal problems, it's best to notify the owner of the tree of your intentions before you do anything, so that your neighbor first has a chance to take care of the problem.

What is considered damage to a tree?

Damage is defined as topping, inappropriate or excessive pruning, trenching or excavating within the root zone, poisoning, overwatering or withholding of water.

Do I have to replant a tree that was removed?

One (1) 15 gallon replacement tree is required when replacing an Acacia, Eucalyptus or Monterey Pine. For other tree species, up to three (3) 15 gallon replacement trees may be required depending on the size of the tree removed, and other conditions on the site. However, if you do not want to plant a replacement tree on your property, an in-lieu fee can be paid to plant trees elsewhere in Belmont.