

## Regulated Trees

1. Coast Live Oak, Valley Oak, Coast Redwood, Madrone, Bay Laurel and Buckeye having a single main stem or trunk of ten (10) inches or more DBH.\*

2. All other species with a main stem or trunk of fourteen (14) inches or more DBH.\*

3. Multi-stemmed trees totaling eighteen (18) inches or more DBH.\*

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

## Resources

### **Parks & Recreation Dept.**

30 Twin Pines Lane  
Belmont, CA 94002  
(650) 595-7441

[parksrec@belmont.gov](mailto:parksrec@belmont.gov)

### **Community Development Dept.**

1 Twin Pines Lane  
Belmont, CA. 94002  
(650) 595-7417

[comdev@belmont.gov](mailto:comdev@belmont.gov)

### **Peninsula Conflict Resolution Center**

(650) 513-0330

### **Full Tree Ordinance & Preferred Tree Species**

[www.belmont.gov/trees](http://www.belmont.gov/trees)

### **Help Identifying Trees**

[www.selectree.calpoly.edu](http://www.selectree.calpoly.edu);  
[www.arboday.org/trees/whattree](http://www.arboday.org/trees/whattree)

### **List of Consulting Arborists**

[www.canopy.org](http://www.canopy.org);  
[www.asca-consultants.org](http://www.asca-consultants.org)

Rev. 12/2017



# City of Belmont Tree Ordinance

Municipal Code, Chapter 25



## Goals & Purpose

### **Belmont Tree Ordinance**

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 contributes to the uniqueness of our community. Residents benefit from trees through energy conservation, air purification, and noise and wind mitigation. The majority of Belmont is hillside and sloping terrain, where trees prevent erosion and lessen 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 to remove any Regulated Tree (see definitions).

### **How do I get a permit?**

For tree removals not associated with Development Permits, please call the Parks & Recreation Department to schedule an appointment for the City Arborist to visit and issue a permit, if appropriate. For tree removals associated with Development Permits, please contact the Community Development Department.

### **Is there a permit fee?**

If a permit is issued, a fee (set by the City Master Fee Schedule) will be collected. This fee may be waived if the tree is dead, dying, diseased, or damaging property.

### **Can I cut a neighbor's tree?**

Never cut a neighbor's tree without prior consent—even if it overhangs your property. To avoid legal problems, first mention the problem to your neighbor so they have a chance to take care of it. For help resolving a dispute, please contact the Peninsula Conflict Resolution Center.

### **Can I prune my tree?**

Pruning, care and maintenance of trees is allowed so long as the pruning does not damage the tree and follows ANSI standards (see Tree Ordinance, Section 25-4).

### **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 water. Damaging a tree may result in removal fees as well as additional penalties.

### **Is a replacement tree required?**

If a permit was issued, one 15-gallon replacement tree must be planted for each tree removed. Replacement trees may be planted anywhere on the owner's property and must be chosen from the Preferred Tree Species list. Email a daytime photo of each replacement tree to the City Arborist to close the permit process.

If you do not want to plant a replacement tree, an in-lieu fee (set by the City Master Fee Schedule) may be paid to plant a tree elsewhere in Belmont.