

Trees

A Big Deal!

Private Trees

In Burlingame, large trees on private property are protected by City Ordinance. Any tree with a circumference of 48" at a height of 54" above the ground is a "Protected Tree."

A permit is required to remove or excessively prune a protected tree. There are financial penalties for not doing so.



Permit applications for removal or excessive pruning of "Protected Trees" may be obtained at the Parks Division office.

Contact the Parks Division at
(650) 558-7330 or parks_trees@burlingame.org
There is a \$75 fee for filing a permit application.

The City Arborist will inspect the protected tree being considered for removal or excessive pruning (more than 25% of the tree.) Before the tree work is done, the applicant and adjacent property owners are notified of the arborist's approval or denial. The arborist's decision may be appealed to the City Beautification Commission.

If a permit is granted for removal, the applicant is often required to either plant a replacement tree or pay a fee to the City Tree Replacement fund so that a new tree can be placed elsewhere in the City.

Private Development & Construction Projects

Proposed private building projects which impact protected trees and, therefore, the urban canopy are subject to the Planning Department's permitting and public hearing process that includes the City Arborist's approval.

Typically, trees that have a trunk circumference of 48" or more (measured 54" above natural grade) and are healthy and viable are protected through these projects.

Occasionally, the removal of a protected tree is approved through the permit process.



City Street Trees

Street Trees are trees that grow on City property (right-of-way) in front of residences and businesses. In most areas, street trees are planted in the planter strip, the area located between the sidewalk and street. Where no planter strip exists, the City right-of-way generally extends five to ten feet from the sidewalk. City tree crews or City-hired contractors prune street trees on a regular schedule. PG&E performs safety pruning on City trees located under power lines.

Street Tree Guidelines

- ◇ Residents may **NOT** cut or trim City trees in the City right-of-way without a permit.
- ◇ Residents may apply for a Tree Work Plan Permit to have a City-approved tree company perform preauthorized removal, trim, or to plant a City tree all at the homeowners expense.
- ◇ Penalties for removing or trimming City owned trees without a permit can be costly. Fine revenues are placed in a fund to purchase new trees.
- ◇ Each single family residence is entitled to one street tree at no charge. If space is available, additional trees may be requested at the homeowner's expense.
- ◇ Landscaping, ground cover & low shrubs (up to three feet in height, not encroaching on the sidewalk or street) are allowed in the planter strip with out a permit.
- ◇ It is unlawful to fasten any sign, wire, rope, or any device to any street tree.

Tree Care Tips

Deep water trees...

- ◇ Deep watering prevents surface roots
- ◇ Trees require regular watering for good health and disease prevention
- ◇ Summer: 5-10 gallons once each week
- ◇ Winter: 5-10 gallons once each month

Protect trees...

- ◇ Watch for signs of drought stress including leaves wilting, yellowing, curling or browning at the edges
- ◇ Keep the base of trees free of weeds, lawn and other plants
- ◇ Protect tree trunks by damage from weed whackers and mowers
- ◇ Mulch around trees to protect young roots from drying out and to suppress weeds



Tree Benefits

	<h3 style="text-align: center;">Lower Urban Air Temperatures</h3>	<p>Asphalt and concrete streets and parking lots increase urban temperatures 3-7 degrees. These increased temperatures significantly impact energy costs to homeowners and consumers. A properly shaded neighborhood, mostly from urban street trees, can reduce household energy bills by 15-35%.</p>
	<h3 style="text-align: center;">Less Drainage Infrastructure</h3>	<p>Trees absorb the first 30% of precipitation through their leaf systems. This moisture never hits the ground.</p>
	<h3 style="text-align: center;">Longer Pavement Life</h3>	<p>Studies in a variety of California environments show the shade of urban street trees adds 40-60% more life to costly asphalt.</p>
	<h3 style="text-align: center;">Rain, Sun, Heat, and Skin Protection</h3>	<p>In areas with good tree coverage there is less exposure to damaging UV rays. In light or moderate rains, pedestrians have less need for rain protection. Cooler temperatures of 5-15 degrees are felt when walking under tree canopied streets.</p>
	<h3 style="text-align: center;">Reduced Harm From Tailpipe Emissions</h3>	<p>Automobile and truck exhaust is a major public health concern and contains significant pollutants. Tailpipe emissions are adding to asthma, ozone, and other health impacts. These impacts are reduced significantly by proximity to trees.</p>
	<h3 style="text-align: center;">Reduced Road Rage</h3>	<p>Motorist road rage is less common in green urban areas versus stark suburban ones. Trees and a pleasant natural environment can reduce blood pressure and may be responsible for some of this calming effect.</p>
	<h3 style="text-align: center;">Gas Transformation</h3>	<p>Street trees absorb 9 times more pollutants than more distant ones, converting harmful gasses back into oxygen and other useful and natural gases.</p>
	<h3 style="text-align: center;">Improved Business</h3>	<p>Businesses on tree lined streets report 20% higher income. This is often the essential competitive edge needed for street store success, versus competition from plaza discount store prices.</p>
	<h3 style="text-align: center;">Added Value to Adjacent Homes, Businesses & Tax Base</h3>	<p>Realtors estimate that homes and businesses on tree lined streets increase in value. In addition to increasing property values, this adds to the tax base, allowing for additional funds for street tree maintenance.</p>
	<h3 style="text-align: center;">Create more Aesthetically Pleasing Environments</h3>	<p>Street trees soften the impact of wide streets, parking lots, and massive, but sometimes necessary blank walls as well as mask utility poles, light poles and other necessary street fixtures.</p>



“Creating a better community in which to live and play through quality recreational environments, enriching opportunities, and empowering people.”

-- Burlingame Parks & Recreation Mission Statement

Parks Division

850 Burlingame Ave
 Burlingame, CA 94010
 Hours: M-F 8:00 am to 4:30 pm
 Phone: (650) 558-7330
 Fax: (650) 696-7216
www.burlingame.org/parks



Parks
Make
Life
Better!



Tree questions?

For any tree maintenance or pruning needs on your City trees contact us at
(650) 558-7330 or
parks_trees@burlingame.org