

Definitions

Resources



Regulated Trees:

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

All other species with a main stem or trunk of fourteen (14") inches or more DBH

Multi-stemmed trees totaling eighteen (18") inches or more DBH

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.

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

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 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 when removing any regulated tree (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.

Staff will set up an appointment for the City Arborist to visit and issue a permit if appropriate.

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

Is there a permit fee? 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 neighbor's tree that is overhanging 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? If

a permit was issued, the resident will be required to plant one (1) 15-gallon replacement tree for each tree removed. The City will provide residents with a Preferred Species Trees list. The resident must plant a tree from the list to ensure that Belmont is reforested with the right trees. 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. The in-lieu fee is set in the current City Master Fee Schedule.