

## Protected Tree FAQ's

What is the definition of a Protected Tree in Rancho Cordova?

1. Native oak – *Quercus lobata*, valley oak; *Quercus wislizenii*, interior live oak; *Quercus douglasii*, blue oak; or *Quercus morehus*, oracle oak – having a trunk diameter of six (6) inches or greater, measured at 4.5 feet (54 inches) above ground level.
2. Any tree species other than a native oak having a trunk diameter of at least twelve (12) inches or greater measured at 4.5 feet (54 inches) above ground level on non-residential property.
3. Any tree species other than a native oak having a trunk diameter of at least twenty-four (24) inches or greater measured at 4.5 feet (54 inches) above ground level on residential property.
4. Any tree planted as a requirement tree for site development, tree permit condition, landscape plan removal replacement, or other designated condition by the Public Works Director or Planning Director.

### Are permits required to remove or prune protected trees?

You must obtain a permit from the Public Works Director if you wish to prune more than 10% or more of the overall canopy, or branches greater than two inches in diameter in the City of Rancho Cordova. Root pruning is not allowed without special provisions of your permit.

**Unless you are certain about the amount of foliage you plan to remove from a tree, it is recommended that you consult the city or a professional arborist before performing any work. Misguided maintenance could lead to harming your tree or paying a penalty.**

### Where can I apply for a permit?

Tree permit applications can be submitted online by using [Rancho Cordova Online](#).

### Is there a fee for the permit?

A permit fee of \$31.00 is due at the time of permit issuance for work on any protected tree. The permit fee partially covers the cost of processing the permit.

### What happens after I submit my Tree Permit application?

Upon receiving the application, a representative from the City's Public Works office will evaluate your reasons for tree work against the guidelines of the Protected Tree Ordinance Section 19.12.070. The tree may also be inspected by the City Arborist. The property owner will be informed of approval or denial of the tree permit and the permit can be paid for and picked up at City Hall located at 2729 Prospect Park Dr., Rancho Cordova.

### How long does it take to get a permit approved?

Allow up to twenty (20) days for permit decisions. The more supplementary information that can be provided along with the application, the quicker it will be to assess the situation and reach a determination. Additional documentation such as an arborist report, photos of damaged structures, letters of concern from neighbors, etc. to support your application may be requested in some cases.