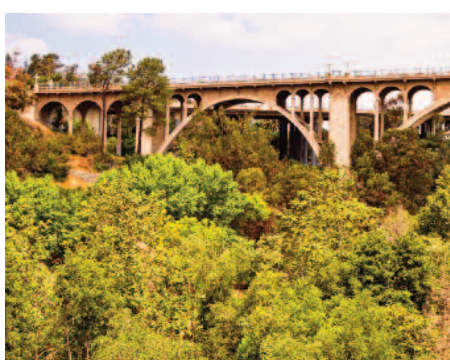




Pasadena Urban Forestry Frequently Asked Questions



As a longstanding “Tree City USA” designee by the Arbor Day Foundation, the City of Pasadena is a proud caretaker of its Urban Forest with more than 60,000 trees and dozens of species. The City’s Urban Forestry Program is administered by the Department of Public Works through its Parks and Natural Resources Division. The Department is responsible for maintaining and enhancing the City’s Urban Forest with a comprehensive program of tree care; planting new trees; removing dead or hazardous trees; updating a street tree database and administering the City’s Tree Protection Ordinance. The following are the most Frequently Asked Questions by residents about City trees in the public right-of-way and privately owned trees.

How do I know if the tree in front of my property is a City tree?

City trees are generally located in the parkway, which is the space between the sidewalk and the roadway. If there is no sidewalk in front of the property, City trees may still be present within a few feet from the edge of the property line. If you would like to confirm whether a tree is a City tree, please contact our Pasadena Citizen Service Center at (626) 744-7311 to request an inspection.

Does the City prune all City trees?

Yes. The Department of Public Works prunes all City trees on cycles based on the International Society of Arboriculture (ISA) standards.

If the tree in front of my property is a City tree, am I responsible for maintaining it?

No. Maintenance of all City trees is the responsibility of the City. Anyone who is not authorized by the City is prohibited from performing any work on City trees including pruning, mounting objects on the tree or removing trees. Unauthorized actions are subject to citations and penalties as specified in the Pasadena Municipal Code Chapter 8.52 The City, however, encourages residents to provide water to newly planted trees to supplement City watering.

Can the City prune the roots of a City tree in front of my property?

During the course of a sidewalk repair project, a property owner can request a City Arborist to inspect and advise what tree roots can be pruned while the sidewalk section is exposed. If you would like to request an inspection for an upcoming sidewalk repair project, please contact the Citizen Service Center.





How does the City determine if a tree should be removed?

An ISA-certified Arborist routinely inspects trees that may be dead or hazardous and warrant removal. Once identified, trees will be removed by the City. Property

owners may also request removal of trees for other reasons. Such requests are reviewed by Department staff and the City's Urban Forestry Advisory Committee (UFAC). Per the Pasadena Municipal Code Chapter 8.52, final determination for these requests must be approved by the City Manager. If the request is approved, the applicant is responsible for the cost of tree removal and replacement. For more information about tree removals, please contact the Citizen Service Center.

Can I request pruning for a City tree outside of its regular pruning cycle?

Yes. Trees do not always grow in a uniform way and out-of-cycle pruning is sometimes necessary for safety reasons and the overall health of the tree. The City will not unnecessarily prune a tree for the purposes of reducing leaf, flower and/or branch litter. An ISA-certified City Arborist will determine whether or not a tree needs out-of-cycle-pruning. Contact the Citizen Service Center if you believe a City tree adjacent to your property needs pruning.

What are the City's policies regarding trees on private property?

The City's Tree Protection Ordinance (TPO) applies to all City trees and select species of trees on private property. Administration of the TPO for trees on private property is the responsibility of the Department of Planning and Community Development. Please contact them at (626) 744-6777 for more information about policies for trees on private property.

How does the City determine what species tree is planted in front of my property?

The City's Master Street Tree Plan (MSTP) designates tree species to be planted throughout the City on a block-by-block basis. The MSTP ensures tree species are appropriate for each location while also promoting overall tree diversity throughout the City's Urban Forest. More information about the MSTP is available online at www.cityofpasadena.net/PublicWorks/Parks_Natural_Resources_Division.

Does the City replant trees that are removed?

Yes. The City constantly cares for its Urban Forest in a sustainable manner. If you would like a City tree planted in front of your property, please contact the Citizen Service Center to request an inspection.

What happens if my tree or a City tree adjacent to my property falls down?

If a privately owned tree has fallen on private property, the owner is responsible for its removal. No tree removal permit is required from the City if the tree has already fallen. If the fallen tree is a life-threatening emergency, or has damaged structures and/or utilities, call 9-1-1. Should the tree fall into the street, please call 9-1-1 as it could be blocking emergency vehicle access to your neighborhood.

Privately owned trees that are leaning over and potentially ready to fall may be removed without a permit once a City representative can verify the situation. If the tree is in immediate danger of falling, call 9-1-1. Otherwise, notify the Department of Planning and Community Development at (626) 744-6777 for help and inspection.

If a City tree adjacent to your property is in immediate danger of falling, call 9-1-1. Otherwise, notify the Citizen Service Center for concerns related to City trees.

What happens if branches from any tree on my property are growing into utility lines or my neighbor's yard?

Call the Citizen Service Center for tree issues involving utility lines. Private property trees involving a neighbor should be solved together by the property owners. Consult a certified arborist and your insurance agent before trimming branches.



PASADENA CITIZEN SERVICE CENTER
www.cityofpasadena.net/Citizen-Service-Center • 626-744-7311

PARKS AND NATURAL RESOURCES (PNR) DIVISION
www.cityofpasadena.net/PublicWorks/Parks_Natural_Resources_Division