



Economic Development Planning Division

Tree Protection and Preservation Ordinance

Are you proposing to remove trees in conjunction with your improvements? Please review this important information regarding El Monte’s Tree Protection and Preservation Ordinance, Chapter 14.03 of the El Monte Municipal Code (EMMC).

Tree Removal Permit Requirement: No person shall remove or relocate a Protected Tree without first submitting a Tree Removal Permit Application to the City of El Monte Economic Development Department for review by an ISA Certified Arborist and the Economic Development Director or his or her designee.

Protected Trees Include

Any species of tree on the list below, with a trunk more than 25” in circumference, as measured at 4 ½’ above the root crown is a Protected Native Tree

California Native Trees

- Aesculus californica (California Buckeye)
- Alnus rhombifolia (California Alder)
- Juglans californica (California Walnut)
- Platanus racemosa (California Sycamore)
- Populus femontii (Cottonwood)
- Populus trichocarpa (Black Cottonwood)
- Quercus agrifolia (Coast Live Oak)
- Quercus berberidfolia (Scrub Oak)
- Quercus chysolepis (Canyon Oak)
- Quercus engelmannii (Engelmann Oak)
- Quercus lobata (Valley Oak)
- Salix lasiolepis (Arroyo Willow)
- Umbellularia californica (California Bay)

Public Trees

- All Public Trees are protected regardless of size

Fee Schedule

• Tree Removal Permit	\$180.04
• After-the-fact Permit	\$360.07
• Per Tree Inspection	\$17.21
• Appeal Fee	\$119.26
• Tree Mitigation and Planting Fund	\$419.71

Any species of tree, which is not a California Native or a Public tree that meets one of the following criteria, is a Protected Heritage Tree

Heritage Trees

- Trees with a single trunk circumference of 36” or more as measured at a point 4 ½’ above the root crown
- Trees with multiple trunks that have a combined circumference of 75” or more as measured at a point 4 ½’ above the root crown
- Trees with a height of 35’ or more
- Any collective stand of trees the nature of which makes each dependent upon the others for survival
- Any other tree may be deemed historically or culturally significant by the City Arborist or Economic Development Director because of its size, connection to the City’s history, location, or aesthetic qualities

Tree Replacement Policy

- All removed trees shall be replaced with a tree ratio of 2:1
- A minimum of two, 36” box trees shall be planted on the subject property or adjacent public right-of-way, for every tree removed or an in lieu fee may be paid into the Tree Mitigation and Planting Fund for each replacement tree

Prohibited Activities to Protected Trees

- Remove or relocate a Protected Tree without first obtaining a Tree Removal Permit.
- Destroy a Protected Tree unless such actions are incident to the authorized removal requiring a Demolition and/or Grading Permit and obtaining a Tree Removal Permit.
- Cause serious harm to a Protected Tree which causes imminent death or shortens the normal life expectancy.
- Severely prune a Protected Tree that results in the removal of more than (25%) of the foliage.
- Engage in improper pruning practices, such as “Lion’s-tailing” or “Topping” of a Protected Tree.
- Allow any person to deposit, discharge, release or apply any poison, hazardous material, or toxic substance on or upon the ground within the dripline of a Protected Tree.
- Attach any rope, wire, nails, tacks, staples, advertising posters, or other contrivance.

Exemptions—Pruning

- **Routine pruning and maintenance of Protected Native and Heritage Trees shall not require a permit.** Pruning in all cases shall be in conformance with the most current guidelines of the International Society of Arboriculture (ISA) and the American National Standards Institute (ANSI) A-300-Pruning Standards. Pruning which deviates from these guidelines, such as “Topping,” “Lion’s tailing,” and other types of severe pruning may be subject to fines and penalties.
- **Pruning of a Public tree is prohibited.** The City of El Monte Public Works Department prunes and maintains all City owned trees. A request for pruning and removal of a Public tree can be made by calling the Public Works Department at (626) 580-2250.

Exemptions—Other

- Trees which are determined by a Certified Arborist and/or Director of Public Works/City Engineer or his or her designee to meet one of the following conditions:
 - o Be a hazard and/or pose a threat to public safety or personal property;
 - o Have caused damage or have the potential to cause damage to public infrastructure;
 - o Require maintenance or removal action for the protection of existing electrical power or communication lines or other public utilities;
 - o Encroach on the public right-of-way, and the removal is necessary to obtain adequate line-of-sight distances;
- Trees that are fruit or nut bearing and all species of palms;
- Trees grown and held for sale by licensed nurseries and/or tree farms; and

Please note that all Exemptions will be determined by the City Arborist, Director of Public Works/City Engineer and/or his or her designee. A Tree Removal Permit Application must be submitted to the Economic Development Department Planning Division prior to any tree removals. The schedule of fees will be waived for trees determined to be exempt.