

TREES AND CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS



TREE CITY USA®

One of South Pasadena's many charms is the trees that adorn neighborhoods in the city. Preserving and protecting trees has earned a "Tree City USA" award for 12 consecutive years. The City has regulations that protect trees on private property as they add to property values and should be considered a valuable resource to be protected.

Property owners proposing a new home, an addition to an existing home, a swimming pool, or other construction activity that has the potential to affect trees are strongly urged to discuss the proposed project with the Public Works Department early in the design phase.

Trees can be affected if they are located:

- Within the area of the proposed construction
- Close to the area of proposed construction, which could impact the root system
- In or close to the access way to the construction site (heavy/large construction equipment, tall cranes, etc. can impact trees)
- On neighboring properties if the root structure and/or tree canopy extends beyond the shared property line

The City can provide general advice, which may include the following:

- "Best practices" for protecting trees during construction
- Details on the required permit/approval process for tree removal or trimming (if applicable—this is not required for all trees)
- Details on the costs of replacing removed trees (if applicable)

The impact on trees will be assessed by the City during the review and approval of the project once it is formally submitted. Depending on the circumstances of the case (type of project, size and species of tree, type of impact [trimming, removal, etc.], other review/approval processes may be triggered. These could include tree trimming/removal permits, review by the Natural Resources and Environmental Commission, or review under the California Environmental Quality Act [CEQA]. **Project applicants may wish to redesign projects so as to reduce or eliminate impacts on trees.**

Please contact the Public Works Department (1414 Mission Street, Room 201, ph (626) 403 7240). The department is open 7:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Monday-Thursday and 7:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. on Friday. Property owners are strongly advised to consult the City's Tree Ordinance at <http://www.qcode.us/codes/southpasadena/>. Refer to Chapter 34.

A drawing of the project site is required (and photos are useful). This should include:

- The property lines
- The outlines of the existing structures (house, garage, pool, etc.)
- The outline of the area/s of the proposed construction
- Locations of **all** existing trees onsite, including those that are not near the construction area
 - If known, please state the species
 - Note the trunk diameter (or circumference) as measured 4' above the ground
- Locations of trees on neighboring properties, where the trunk is within 15' of the shared property line, which are within the area of proposed construction.