



ARBORISTS REPORTS TO SUPPORT TREE REMOVAL PERMIT APPLICATIONS

The City of Folsom's Tree Preservation Ordinance protects the following types of trees on commercial, industrial, residential, and open space parcels:

- ✿ **Native Oaks** – *blue oak, valley oak, interior live oak, and coast live oak species*
- ✿ **Street Trees** – *any tree located along a street frontage w/in 12.'5 from the sidewalk edge*
- ✿ **Parking Lot Trees** – *any tree casting shade in a parking lot*
- ✿ **Heritage Trees** – *any tree with a trunk diameter of 30" or greater*
- ✿ **Landmark Trees** – *a tree designated by City Council to be a community asset*

A permit is required to remove a protected tree. When a tree removal application is received, the City inspects the tree to verify the reasons for removal are in alignment with the requirements in the Tree Preservation Ordinance, found online at: www.folsom.ca.us/treepreservationordinance.

If staff determines the tree(s) clearly meet the necessary findings required to approve the removal request, the permit approval process can proceed. If the findings required for approval of the application are not obvious or more information is required, the City will request additional information in the form of a high-level arborist inspection and report demonstrating the conditions associated with the subject tree(s) meet the findings required for approval; or a combination of documented evidence of property damage by a qualified building contractor or engineer supported by an arborist report attesting that the conditions found cannot be alleviated or managed unless the tree is removed.

The requested inspection and report should be performed by a qualified arborist and should contain a clear structure that provides findings, explanations and reasoning as to why no reasonable alternative methods exist to retain the tree. Findings may require aerial inspection of the tree, root exposure, drilling, core samples or other methodology.

The nine basic elements of a comprehensive arborist report are:

| # | Required Report Item | Brief description |
|---|---------------------------------------|--|
| 1 | Basic Information: | The dates of the site inspection and report, address and site location of the tree(s), property owner information, and contact information of the authoring arborist |
| 2 | Defining the Assignment: | Provide the clear purpose and use of the report |
| 3 | Observations: | Describe the gathering of facts from an on-site inspection of the tree and its surroundings and provide the information found out about the tree |
| 4 | Analysis or Testing: | Explain any tests performed and the results of any analysis or testing using field equipment or laboratory samples; or suggest follow up tests or examinations if needed to provide more information or support mitigation options |
| 5 | Discussion: | discuss the observations/analyses to make judgments and support conclusions and recommendations (including alternatives that may save the tree) |
| 6 | Conclusion: | describe the judgments and opinions resulting from the evaluation of the facts |
| 7 | Recommendation(s): | describe what work or mitigation options the arborist believes should take place |
| 8 | Supporting Information: | Include any supporting material (excerpts from literature, photos, site maps, specifications, etc.) that is used to support the claims being made |
| 9 | Arborist Statement of Qualifications: | Provide the credentials and experience of the authoring arborist qualifying them to provide an assessment and recommendation on the subject tree |

Once the report is received, City staff will review and, if necessary, make another site inspection to validate the findings. If the findings support the requirements for approval of the permit request, the permit approval process can proceed.

If the report is insufficient in the quantity or quality of information necessary to justify the removal request, staff will either place the application on hold, or deny the permit application as submitted.

If you have any questions, please contact the City of Folsom Urban Forester at (916) 461-6213 or online at TreePermitEPC@folsom.ca.us.