



INFORMATIONAL BULLETIN

Bulletin No. 255
Page 1 of 2
Effective: 06/19/95

Approved: *Robert Sweller*

TREE REMOVAL

A permit shall be required to remove any significant tree on public or private land to which this ordinance applies. Application for permits can be made at the Community Development Department. City Inspectors will inspect tree removal and site work. Approvals of permit requests shall be made only upon determination of the City Arborist. Tree removal is not permitted unless a permit specifically lists the trees to be removed. In accordance with Ordinance 94-08, adopted on June 14, 1994, the City will use the following criteria to grant approval for tree removal permits:

1. Trees that are dead or in significant and irreversible decline. Significant decline is defined as dead limbs composing more than one-third of the tree crown.
2. Trees that have a potentially hazardous and incorrectable structure.
3. Trees that are stunted or malformed due to crowding from adjacent trees or structures.
4. Trees that have an insect or disease infestation that is not treatable and could cause tree mortality.
5. Trees that are causing damage to structures as follows:

Sidewalks, curbs, drives, buildings and other structures: Removal shall be granted if the cost to repair the damage exceeds the appraised value of the tree (using the appraisal method established by the International Society of Arboriculture), if the process of repair will compromise the health and safety of the tree, or if the tree is determined to be incompatible with the growing space available.



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Page 2 of 2
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Sewer, gas, electrical, water and other utilities: Removal shall be granted if it can be determined that the tree caused the damage to the utility. If the center of the tree trunk is located within three feet of a utility line, it is assumed to have caused the damage. It will be the applicant's responsibility to demonstrate cause if the tree is beyond three feet beyond the utility line.

6. Trees that have yet to cause damage to structures, but are determined to be incompatible with the growing space available as follows: The applicant shall complete a comprehensive management plan through the City's Community Forests program or equivalent to address phased removals and appropriate replacements prior to approval of a tree removal permit.
7. Trees that are significantly inhibiting the utilization of the property and removal can be determined to provide a public benefit. The Planning Commission will evaluate permits submitted under this criterion.
8. Trees on nonresidential property shall only be subject to the replacement criteria in Section V.G.801.c.2. of the Municipal Code of the City of Irvine.

The City of Irvine desires to maximize the value of its urban forest. Therefore, healthy trees will not be approved for removal for issues not specifically listed above.