



City of Pacific Grove

Urban Forestry Standards

Definitions

Certain terms that are unique to the arboricultural or construction industry are defined to provide a uniform understanding of the terms and concepts used and mentioned in this document and Title 12 of the Municipal Code.

“Building Coverage” has the meaning assigned in Chapter 23.08 (Zoning—Definitions).

“Community tree program fund” means a dedicated city fund comprising donations, moneys appropriated by the city council, fines, tree damage assessments, and in-lieu fees collected under the authority of this title and established by the city council in the city’s master fee schedule. Community Tree Program Fund expenditures shall be used for the following purposes: 1) to provide additional trees elsewhere on a site; 2) to plant and maintain of Public trees; 3) to assess and mitigate high-risk trees; and 4) to execute tree replanting consistent with goals and strategies in urban forest management programs.

“Critical Root Zone” shall mean the area that should be protected during construction to minimize impacts to a tree. To prevent construction damage, fence off the critical root zone. Estimate the Critical Root Zone by measuring the diameter of the trunk at breast height (dbh) in inches, multiplying that number by 1.5, and using that number in feet as the radius of the protected area. For example, a ten-inch tree would need to have tree protection fencing located 15 feet away from the trunk; while a 20-inch tree would need to have tree protection fencing located 30 feet away from the trunk.

“Development” has the meaning assigned in Chapter 23.08 (Zoning—Definitions).

“Discretionary development approval” has the meaning assigned in Chapter 23.08 (Zoning—Definitions).

“Emergency” means a sudden, usually unexpected, occurrence requiring immediate action to protect life and property.

“Feasible” means capable of being implemented, taking into account such factors as safety of persons and property, the environment, aesthetics, and economic considerations.

“Hedge” means and includes any plant material, shrub or plant, when planted in a dense, continuous line or area, as to form a thicket or barrier.

“High-Risk Tree” means an imminent hazard or threat to the safety of persons or property, with a Potential Failure Rating of 9 or higher.

“Invasive Tree” means a Tree that is not Native to the Monterey Peninsula and that has the ability to thrive and spread aggressively on the Peninsula. They tend to disrupt the natural habitat, squeeze out native plants and animals, and reduce biodiversity.

“*Landscape Trees for Pacific Grove*” means the approved list of trees in the City of Pacific Grove, which may be updated and amended from time to time by resolution of the City Council.

“Lower Canopy Tree” means a tree of a species that tends to be less than 40 feet tall at maturity. Lower Canopy Trees tend to have leaves and needles larger and softer than those of Upper Canopy Trees, better able to catch the available light and with less need to defend against the buffeting of the wind

and rain. Most Lower Canopy Trees, including the ornamentals and fruit trees, are not native to the Monterey peninsula.

“Native Tree” means a species that was common on the Monterey Peninsula prior to the arrival of Europeans. These Trees, such as the Monterey pine and Monterey cypress, co-evolved over a very long period with other plants, animals, fungi, and microbes, to form the complex network of mutually reliant relationships found in the Peninsula’s native ecosystems.

“Parks” means and includes all Parks to which names have been given by action of the city council.

“Person” and “Persons” means and includes any and all individuals, partnerships, firms, associations, corporations, governmental agencies, and other legal entities, and the agents, employees, and representatives thereof.

“Plant” means and includes all other plant material, non-woody, annual, or perennial in nature, not necessarily hardy.

“Protected Tree” means those Trees as defined in Municipal Code Chapter 12.30 and described in more detail in the Urban Forestry Standards.

“Prune” or “Pruning” means to Remove dead growth, tip live branches, thin live foliage, or a combination. Pruning does not include topping.

“Prune Substantially” or “Substantial Pruning” shall apply to both above-surface and underground cutting or Removal. With reference to branches, either term shall mean cutting or Removal of more than 25 percent of the live branches of the entire Tree within a 12-month period; or Removal of foliage so as to cause the unbalancing of a Tree; and/or cutting or Removal of any live limb with a diameter of 6 inches or greater or a circumference of 19 inches or greater at any point on such limb. With reference to roots, either term shall mean cutting or Removal of any root 4 inches or greater in diameter.

“Public property” means and includes all grounds owned by or leased to and under the control of the city of Pacific Grove or other governmental agency.

“Public Trees” means all Street Trees and all other Trees located on Public Property.

“Qualified Professional” means a Person who possesses the credentials, degrees, or qualifications that support the resource-specific skill required to adequately prepare and submit Tree Reports, including:

- A Person designated by the International Society of Arboriculture as a: Certified Arborist; Municipal Specialist; Board Certified Master Arborist; or Certified Tree Risk Assessor.
- A Person designated by the American Society of Consulting Arborists as a: Registered Consulting Arborist.
- A degreed Forest Ecologist.

“Remove” or “Removal” means any of the following:

- Complete Removal, such as cutting to the ground or extraction, of a Tree.



- Taking any action foreseeably leading to the death of a Tree or permanent damage to its health; including but not limited to excessive pruning, cutting, girdling, poisoning, overwatering, unauthorized relocation or transportation of a Tree, or trenching, excavating, altering the grade, or paving within the Critical Root Zone.

“Review Authority” means the city official or body responsible for reviewing and making decisions on permit requests, either initially or on appeal.

“Root Crown” means the zone of transition between the Tree trunk and supporting roots.

“Shrub” means and includes any woody perennial plant, normally low, several-stemmed, and capable of being shaped and pruned without injury, within the area planted.

“Snag” means a dead tree, generally ranging between 12 and 30 feet high, from which the top and a majority of the branches have been removed, in order to provide wildlife habitat.

“Street” means and includes all land lying between the boundaries of property abutting on all public Streets, boulevards, alleys and walks.

“Street Tree” means any Tree whose trunk is located all or primarily within the Street easement or on public property between the Street right of way and a Street-facing property.

“Substantial Pruning”—see “Prune substantially.”

“Suitable” shall mean appropriate to the situation, taking into account: safety of persons and property; environmental values such as wind break, soil erosion, and wildlife habitat; Tree density; Tree health; aesthetic results; and economic factors.

“Tree” means any woody plant that has a trunk six inches or more in diameter at four and one-half feet (54 inches) above natural grade level. For purposes of this title, a multi-trunk Tree shall be considered a single Tree and the circumference of that Tree shall be the sum of the circumferences of the trunks of that Tree.

“Tree Protection Zone” see “Critical Root Zone”.

“Tree Report” means a Tree assessment report meeting the standards specified in prepared by a Qualified Professional.

“Tree Service Contractor” means any Person providing tree trimming and removal services for a fee or other consideration.

“Upper Canopy Tree” means a Tree of a species that tends to be taller than 40 feet at maturity and is able to thrive (when mature) in circumstances providing greater direct exposure to the sun and wind. The leaves and needles of the upper canopy tree are often tough, to withstand drying without damage when moisture is less readily available. Upper Canopy Trees Native to the Monterey peninsula include Monterey pine, Monterey cypress, Monterey cypress, Monterey pine, and Torrey pine. Upper canopy trees provide shelter and shade for species lower in the canopy and on the ground.

“Urban Forestry Standards” means the standards issued to implement Municipal Code.