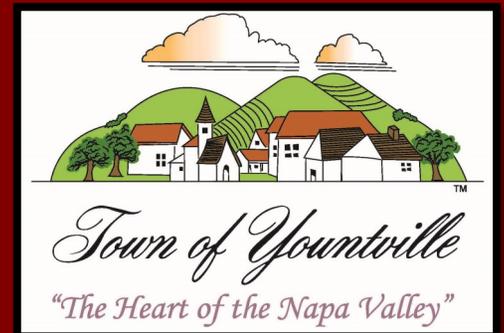


# Why?

It is the goal of the Town to foster a vibrant and healthy mixed-species urban forest. The preservation of trees enhances the natural beauty of the community, sustains the long-term potential increase in property values, helps create and retain the identity and quality of the Town which is necessary for successful business to continue, improves the attractiveness of the Town to residents and visitors, maintains the natural ecology, retains the tempering effect of extreme temperatures, prevents the erosion of top soil, provides protection against flood hazards, and contributes to the reduction in greenhouse gas emissions. For these reasons, the Town has adopted standards and policies to preserve and manage its urban forest.

The information in this pamphlet was taken from Yountville Municipal Code Chapters **12.16 Trees**, **17.96 Open Space**, and **17.98 Tree Preservation and Management**. These sections can be viewed in their entirety at [www.townofyountville.com](http://www.townofyountville.com).

# Trees



Planning & Building



## What do I need to do to remove a tree?

A tree removal permit is required prior to removing any protected tree in town. Protected trees are any trees that meet at least one of the following criteria:

- A Heritage Tree
- Any native oak with a trunk that measures 10 inches DBH (diameter at breast height) or 31 inches circumference, or more
- Any tree with a trunk that measures 12 inches DBH (38 inches circumference) or more
- Any multi-stemmed perennial plant having an aggregate DBH of 20 inches (63 inches circumference) or more

Applications for permits can be processed at Town Hall with a \$54 application fee.

The application requires property owner signature, applicant contact info, details about the tree(s) being removed such as species and size, the location of the tree(s), and details of replacement tree(s).

## How are applications considered?

Yountville planning staff must consider 6 criteria prior to approving the removal of a protected tree:

- The condition of the tree(s) with respect to health, imminent danger of failing or failure, proximity to existing structures, and interference with utility infrastructure.
- The necessity of removing the tree(s) to allow for the reasonable use, enjoyment, or development of the property.
- The age and size of the tree with regard to the appropriateness of the size of the area in which the tree is planted and/or whether its removal would encourage healthier and more vigorous growth of other plant material in the area.
- The effect of removal upon soil erosion or whether removal will result in a significant diversion or increase in the flow of surface water.
- The number, species, size and location of other trees in the area and the effect removal will have upon shade, privacy between properties, or scenic beauty of the area.
- Whether reasonable mitigation measures that reduce a structural defect in a hazardous tree to a less-than significant level or hazard can be implemented.

If staff is able to make findings supporting removal based on the criteria above, then the tree removal application will be approved. If staff is unable to make findings that support removal, the application may be denied.

Staff may recommend a certified arborist report to provide insight regarding a tree's health.

## Replacements?

Planning staff may condition any tree removal permit with replacement of trees in kind. The replacement requirement will be calculated on an inch-by-inch replacement of the removed tree(s), with a minimum 15-gallon tree. For larger and more significant trees, multiple trees may be recommended as a replacement.

In some circumstances, crowding or other physical constraints make it impossible or undesirable to replace a tree of equal value onsite. When a replacement tree planting is deferred or not feasible, a fee will be assessed to the permit applicant in-lieu of the cost of replacing the tree to be removed.

In-Lieu Fees are determined by the size of the tree being removed, as follows:

Small—12 Inch DBH—\$280 Each

Medium—13-24 Inch DBH—\$500 Each

Large—25-36 Inch DBH—\$1,150 Each

## Contact Us

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