

Are My Trees Protected?

Information about trees in Davis on commercial/multi-family properties

Updated 3/2026

These types of trees on private property are protected:

City trees are trees planted in the 10-foot easement on private property fronting public streets.

Trees of Significance are trees planted within commercial and multifamily properties that measure 5 inches or more in diameter at breast height.

The City has regulations to protect City trees and trees of significance on private property. An approved permit is required prior to any pruning work or removal. Modification of the areas around these trees may also require a permit or City review, depending on the nature of the proposed work.



It is the responsibility of property owners to be aware of tree-related regulations before engaging in any activity that may impact existing trees.

Things to know about landscaping around City trees & trees of significance:

- The roots and canopies of trees do not mirror each other. In fact, tree roots can extend two to three times farther than the canopy above ground! This needs to be considered when looking to make changes to landscapes around these trees.
- Property owners are welcome to landscape over the root zone of their tree, as long as the vegetation and materials used do not harm the tree. Consider keeping grass away from the base of the tree as it competes for water and nutrients. This will also help avoid mechanical damage from lawn equipment, particularly for newly planted trees.
- While the use of natural mulch, such as wood chips, around trees is encouraged to promote tree health, weed cloth and rock ground covers are discouraged around trees. Rocks and weed cloth impede air and water flow to tree roots and cause the soil to heat up —killing microorganisms in the soil and harming the tree.
- Tree roots over 2 inches in diameter may not be pruned without an inspection from a City Arborist (see the contact below) to ensure that pruning the root will not cause harm to the tree.
- Altering the grading of the landscaping in such a way that would damage the tree is also prohibited.



Caring for Your Trees

Trees need mulch and water to grow and remain healthy. Check out the City's Urban Forestry Division website at Trees.Cityofdavis.org for information on caring for your trees.

Tree Questions?

To find out if a particular tree is a City tree, or for any other tree-related questions, please contact the Urban Forestry Division at 530-757-5633 or CityTrees@CityofDavis.org



Public Works Utilities and Operations
CityTrees@CityofDavis.org | 530-757-5633
Trees.CityofDavis.org

