

Tree Removal Frequently Asked Questions

The City's Tree Ordinance Chapter 20.150 governs public tree removal in the City of Ventura

These frequently asked questions were developed to help residents understand whether or not the public tree in front of their home is a candidate for removal.

Are public trees removed for tree root private sewer lateral conflicts?

Usually a public tree does not need to be removed when there is tree root private sewer lateral conflict.

In most cases, there is a break in the private sewer lateral prior to root infiltration, which can be caused through a combination of the degradation of construction materials, settling, or shrinking and expanding of our natural soils which leads to the private sewer lateral leaking. Once there is a leak, root infiltration is possible.

Public trees may be considered for removal once a permit for private sewer lateral repair has been pulled from our Building and Safety Division, only if the tree prevents the repairs from taking place. During the repair process staff works with the homeowner and plumbing company to evaluate whether or not the tree will be impacted during the repair process. In some cases, roots may need to be pruned. In most scenarios public trees can be retained through this process.

If a public tree prevents a sewer lateral repair, the City's Urban Forestry Program will remove the tree.

Are public trees removed for sidewalk related damages?

The City's sidewalk maintenance program prioritizes damages and handles repairs with the limited funding available. The City's Urban Forestry Program works closely with the City's sidewalk maintenance and repair program to resolve as many sidewalk displacements as possible.

Public trees are not removed unless a sidewalk is to be repaired. Decisions for removal of public trees that have caused damage to sidewalks are made at the time when sidewalk repairs or replacements are conducted. In many cases public trees can be retained during the repair process. Retention and survival of public trees is a priority during repairs.

If you would like to report a sidewalk displacement in the city of Ventura, please contact the Sidewalk Repair Hotline at 805.652.4590.

Are public trees removed for causing debris?

Tree debris – such as leaves, flowers, or fruit -- is naturally occurring and not considered to be valid criteria for tree removal.

These frequently asked questions were developed to help residents understand whether or not the public tree in front of their home is a candidate for removal. For more information about public trees in Ventura, please contact our Urban Forestry office at 805-652-4541.