



DEVELOPMENT SERVICES DEPARTMENT
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CITY OF REDDING

COMPREHENSIVE TREE PLAN

PURPOSE

Since 1982, the National Arbor Day Foundation has recognized the City of Redding as a "Tree City U.S.A." This designation underscores the City's efforts to plant and maintain trees throughout the community. In 1990, the City Council further recognized the value of trees by enacting Redding's Tree Preservation Ordinance (Chapter 18.65 of the Municipal Code). Also, since 1995, the Electric Utility has received a Tree Line USA Award from the National Arbor Day Foundation for the efforts in quality tree care, while meeting service objectives. The tree preservation and planting requirements it contains will serve to ensure that trees become an integral part of the development planning in the City. This guide was prepared to assist the development community in understanding the basic concepts of designing and working around existing trees.

The Comprehensive Tree Plan presented here is in addition to the Tree Preservation Ordinance referred to in the first paragraph and is complementary to Chapter 13.40 of the Municipal Code. The Comprehensive Tree Program is designed to address the care and maintenance of the 20,600 trees that are along the City's streets and parks. It also addresses potential problems with trees that are yet to be planted. It is to be used prospectively and not to correct past problems. We are especially concerned about planting an inappropriate tree under, or adjacent to, electric utility wires. An official list of the types and varieties of trees approved for such planting is included in this plan.

DEFINITIONS

Street trees shall be defined as trees, shrubs, bushes, and all other woody vegetation on land lying between property lines on either side of all streets, avenues, or ways within the City.

Park trees shall be defined as trees, shrubs, bushes, and all other woody vegetation in public parks and all areas owned by the City or to which the public has free access, such as a park.

Street tree species to be planted. These are selected species of trees on the official Street Tree List for the City of Redding. No species other than those included in this list may be planted as street trees without written permission of the City.

SPACING

The spacing of street trees will be in accordance with the species size classes specified on the Street Tree List, and no trees may be planted closer together than the following:

1. Small trees, 25 feet
2. Small medium trees, 30 feet
3. Medium trees, 40 feet
4. Large trees, 50 feet
5. Except in special planting designed or approved by the City Engineer or Development Services Director

DISTANCES FROM CURBS AND SIDEWALKS

The distances trees may be planted from curbs or curb lines and sidewalks will be in accordance with the species size classes specified on the Street Tree List, and no tree may be planted closer than the following:

1. Small trees, 2 feet
2. Small medium trees, 2 1/2 feet
3. Medium trees, 3 feet
4. Large trees, 4 feet

DISTANCES FROM STREET CORNERS AND FIRE HYDRANTS

No tree or shrub with a mature height taller than 3 feet shall be planted closer than 35 feet from any street corner, measured from the point of nearest intersecting curbs or curb lines, and at least 15 feet from driveways and alleys. No tree shall be planted closer than 10 feet from a fire hydrant.

UNDERGROUND UTILITIES

No street trees other than those listed in the Street Tree List may be planted within 5 lateral feet of any underground water line, sewer line, electric line, or other utility.

OVERHEAD ELECTRIC UTILITIES

The distance trees may be planted from overhead power lines, poles, or streetlights will be in accordance with the following table and shall be one of the "species size classes" specified on the Street Tree List:

Tree Species	Lateral Distance from Overhead Conductors		Distance from Utility Pole or Streetlight
	0-600 Volt Lines	Greater Than 600 Volt Lines	
Small	No limit	No limit	10 feet
Small Medium	5 feet	15 feet	15 feet
Medium	7 feet	20 feet	20 feet
Large	7 feet	30 feet	30 feet

PUBLIC TREE CARE

The City shall have the right to plant, prune, maintain, and remove trees, plants, and shrubs within the lines of all streets, alleys, avenues, lanes, squares, and public grounds as may be necessary to ensure public safety, to provide for continuity of services, or to preserve or enhance the symmetry and beauty of such public grounds. The City may remove or cause an order to have removed any tree or part thereof which poses an impediment to public travel (clear space of 14 feet above the surface of the street and 8 feet above the surface of the sidewalk in accordance with Section 13.40.040 of the Redding Municipal Code); is in an unsafe condition; or which, by reason of nature, is injurious to sewers, electric power lines, water lines, or other public improvements; or is affected with any injurious fungus, insect, or other pest. This section does not prohibit the planting of street trees by adjacent property owners providing that the selection and location of said trees are in accordance with the above sections and the property owner has obtained a permit. A permit is required in accordance with Section 13.040.030 of the Redding Municipal Code.

TREE TOPPING

It shall be discouraged as a normal practice for any person, firm, or City Department to top any street tree, park tree, or any other tree on public property. Topping is defined as the severe cutting back of limbs to stubs or lateral branches too small to assume the terminal role. This practice is done to reduce or remove the normal canopy of the tree. Topping destroys the natural shape, weakens the structure, reduces health, and shortens the useful life span. Topping is usually inappropriate for shade and ornamental trees. Trees severely damaged in storms or from other causes, or certain trees under or adjacent to utility wires or other obstructions where other pruning practices are impractical, may be exempted from this section.

PRIVATE TREE CARE

Every owner of any tree on private property overhanging any street or right-of-way within the City shall be responsible to ensure that such branches shall not obstruct the light from any street lamp or obstruct the view of any street intersection, so that there shall be a clear space of 14 feet above the surface of the street and 8 feet above the surface of the sidewalk. Said owners shall cause to be removed all dead, diseased, or dangerous trees, and broken or decayed limbs that constitute a menace to the safety of the public. The City shall have the right to prune any tree or shrub on private property when it interferes with the proper spread of light along the street from a streetlight; or interferes with the visibility of any traffic control device or sign; or causes an impediment to public travel or interferes with the safe operation of electric power lines, including instances where branches are within six feet of overhead power lines that operate in excess of 600 volts. This subject is dealt with in Section 13.40.080 (*Nuisance on Private Property*) of the Municipal Code.

REMOVAL OF STUMPS

All stumps of street and park trees shall be removed to a minimum depth of four inches below the surface of the ground so that the top of the stump shall not project above the surface of the ground.

TRIMMING OF ROOTS

Dealing with tree roots and sidewalks that are already tangled can be a difficult matter. The solution may require compromises, such as narrowing the sidewalk, a jogging curb around the tree, using pavers and grates, or possibly accepting uneven sidewalks. Because there are so many solutions to this conflict, each situation will require a certified City arborist's review and resolution. In addressing such a situation, public safety shall be given the highest priority, followed by the protection of public and private infrastructure and preservation of the City's urban forest and trees.

STREET TREE REMOVAL

This subject is dealt with in Section 13.40.040 (*Maintenance and Removal in Public Areas*) of the Municipal Code.

APPEAL

Appealing this plan is discussed in Section 13.40.100 of the Municipal Code.

Small Trees		Size	Root Damage
Acer Ginnalla	Amur Maple	20-25 ft	Low
Acer Truncatum	Chinese Maple	20-25 ft	Low
Cercis Canadensis	Eastern Redbud	20-25 ft	Low
Cercis Canadensis 'Forest Pansy'	Purple Leaf Eastern Redbud	20-25 ft	Low
Cercis Occidentails	Western Redbud	20-25 ft	Low
Chilopsis Linearis	Desert Willow	15-30 ft	Low
Cotinus Coggygria 'Royal Purple'	Smoke Tree	12-20 ft	Low
Crataegus Ambigua	Russian Hawthorn	20-25 ft	Low
Crataegus Phaenopyrum (C.Cordata)	Washington Hawthorn	20-25 ft	Low
Lagerstroemia 'Muskogee'	Muskogee Hybrid Crapemyrtle	20-25 ft	Low
Lagerstroemia 'Natchez'	Natchez Hybrid Crapemyrtle	20-25 ft	Low
Lagerstroemia 'Tuscarora'	Tuscarora Hybrid Crapemyrtle	20-25 ft	Low
Lagerstroemia Indica	Crapemyrtle	20-25 ft	Low
Lagerstroemia Indica 'Catawaba'	Catawaba Crapemyrtle	20-25 ft	Low
Lagerstroemia Indica 'Cherokee'	Cherokee Crapemyrtle	20-25 ft	Low
Lagerstroemia Indica 'Potomac'	Potomac Crapemyrtle	20-25 ft	Low
Lagerstroemia Indica 'Powhatan'	Powhatan Crapemyrtle	20-25 ft	Low
Lagerstroemia Indica 'Seminole'	Seminole Crapemyrtle	20-25 ft	Low
Magnolia Hybrid 'Spectrum'	Spectrum Hybrid Magnolia	20-25 ft	Low Mod
Magnolia Soulangiana	Saucer Magnolia	20-25 ft	Low Mod
Magnolia Soulangiana 'Alexandrina'	Alexandrina Saucer Magnolia	20-25 ft	Low Mod
Magnolia Soulangiana 'Brozzoni'	Brozzoni Saucer Magnolia	20-25 ft	Low Mod
Magnolia Soulangiana 'Rustica Rubra'	Rustica Rubra Saucer Magnolia	20-25 ft	Low Mod
Malus Floribunda	Japanese Crabapple	12-25 ft	Low
Malus Loensis 'Plena'	Bechtel Crabapple	20-25 ft	Low
Melaleuca Linarifolia	Flaxleaf Paper Bark Evergreen	20-30 ft	Low
Olneya Tesota	Desert Ironwood	15-30 ft	Low
Prunus Blireiana	Flowering Plum	20-25 ft	Low
Prunus Cerasifera "Krauter Vesuvisus"	Flowering Plum	20-25 ft	Low
Pyrus Kasakamii	Evergreen Pear	15-30 ft	Low
Zelkova Serrata	Wireless Zelkova	20-25 ft	Low

Small Medium Trees		Size	Root Damage
Acer Capillipes	Japanese Snakebark Maple	25-35 ft	Low Mod
Arbutus Marina/Unedo	Strawberry Tree	20-40 ft	Low
Carpinus Betulus 'Fastigata'	Erect European Hornbeam	25-35 ft	Low
Carpinus Caroliniana	American Hornbeam	25-35 ft	Low
X Chitalpa Tashkentensis	Chitalpa	25-35 ft	Low
Fraxinus Oxycarpa 'Flame'	Flame Ash	25-35 ft	Low Mod
Fraxinus Oxycarpa 'Raywood'	Raywood Ash	25-35 ft	Moderate
Geijera Parviflora	Australian Willow	25-35 ft	Low
Gleditsia Triacanthos Inermis 'Rubylace'	Rubylace Locust	25-35 ft	Moderate
Gleditsia Triacanthos Inermis 'Sunburst'	Sunburst Locust	25-35 ft	Moderate
Koelreuterua Bipinnata	Chinese Flame Tree	20-40 ft	Low
Pyrus Calleryana 'Capital'	Capital Ornamental Pear	25-35 ft	Moderate
Searsia Lancea	African Sumac	20-30 ft	Low
Sophora Japonica 'Pendula'	Japanese Pagoda Tree	15-20 ft	Low
Tilia Cordata 'Greenspire'	Greenspire Littleleaf Linden	25-35 ft	Moderate
Medium Trees		Size	Root Damage
Diospyros Virginiana	American Persimmon	35-50 ft	Moderate
Fraxinus "Fan West"		30-50 ft	Moderate
Fraxinus Pennsylvanica 'Marshall'	Marshall Seedless Green Ash	35-50 ft	Moderate
Fraxinus Pennsylvanica (F.Lanceolata)	Green Ash, Red Ash	35-50 ft	Moderate
Fraxinus Velutina 'Rio Grande'		30-50 ft	
Gleditsia Triacanthos Inermis 'Moraine'	Moraine Locus	35-50 ft	Moderate
Gleditsia Triacanthos Inermis 'Shademaster'	Shademaster Locust	35-50 ft	Moderate
Gleditsia Triacanthos Inermis 'Skyline'	Skyline Locust	35-50 ft	Moderate
Nyssa Sylvatica	Sour Gum, Tupelo, Pepperidge	35-50 ft	Low Mod
Quercus Canbyi	Chisos Oak	40-50 ft	Low
Quercus Douglasii	Blue Oak	35-50 ft	Low Mod
Quercus Falcata	Southern Red Oak	40-50 ft	Low
Tilia Cordata	Little-Leaf Linden	35-50 ft	Moderate

Large Trees		Size	Root Damage
Cedrus Atlantica	Atlas Cedar	45-60 ft	Moderate
Cedrus Deodara	Deodar Cedar	40-60 ft	Moderate
Fraxinus Latifolia (F.Oregona)	Oregon Ash	50-65 ft	Low Mod
Pistacia Chinensis	Chinese Pistache	50-65 ft	Low Mod
Quercus Agrifolia	California Live Oak or Coast Live Oak	20-70 ft	Moderate
Quercus Engelmannii	Englemann Oak, Mesa Oak	50-65 ft	Moderate
Quercus Palustris	Pin Oak	50-65 ft	Low Mod
Quercus Wislizeni	Interior Live Oak	30-70 ft	Moderate
Ginkgo Biloba	Maidenhair Tree	50-65 ft	Moderate
Ginkgo Biloba 'Autumn Gold'	Autumn Gold Maidenhair Tree	50-65 ft	Moderate
Ginkgo Biloba 'Fairmont'	Fairmont Maidenhair Tree	50-65 ft	Moderate
Quercus Phellos	Willow Oak	50-65 ft	Moderate
Quercus Shumardii	Shumard Red Oak	50-65 ft	Moderate
Platanus Orientalis	Oriental Plane Tree	50-65 ft	Moderate
Quercus Coccinea	Scarlet Oak	50-65 ft	Moderate
Quercus Rubra (Q.Borealis)	Red Oak	50-65 ft	Moderate
Quercus Suber	Cork Oak	30-70 ft	Moderate
Zelkova Serrata	Sawleaf Zelkova	50-65 ft	Moderate
Quercus Macrocarpa	Bur Oak, Mossy Cup Oak	>65 ft	Moderate

Notes:

1. Information taken From PG&E's TREEFINDER

2. Root Damage Potential is rated at low, low moderate, moderate, moderate high, high, and very high. These ratings are based on tendencies to have surface roots. Surface roots close to the trunk tend to enlarge and grow more rapidly because they are older and receive more nourishment from the top of the tree. To avoid damage from this most potentially damaging root zone, plant small trees a minimum of five feet from a structure and 10 feet for medium-sized trees. Soil type and other local conditions will also affect how roots grow. Deep watering can be beneficial in encouraging downward root growth. Surprisingly, little or no watering encourages roots to seek water at lower soil depths.