

Tree Care Requirements for Property Owners Pertaining to Trees in the Public Right-of-Way

...What You Need to Know

Importance of Trees

Trees are precious resources. They improve property values, clean our water and air, provide habitat, and make our streets more attractive and quieter.

What is the Public Right-of-Way Street Tree?

Applicable to most property owners, this involves a portion of their front yard area, typically the right-of-way or easement extends six feet (6') from the back of sidewalk or ten feet (10') from the back of the curb.

MAINTENANCE (Planting, Trimming, or Removal)

In general, it is the responsibility of the property owner to water, fertilize, and trim any tree located in a City owned or controlled planting strip or right-of-way abutting his/her property as necessary to promote healthy growth of the tree(s).

It is also the responsibility of the property owner to keep trees from blocking street signs, extending over any street or alley – trimmed to a height of not less than twelve feet (12') over the street and a minimum of eight feet (8') over the sidewalk.

If you ever wish to plant or prune more than 25% of the crown, or remove a tree in the City right-of-way/easement, this would require an encroachment permit from the City Public Works Department. The permits are free and are typically processed in about one week. Removing a tree or over-pruning a tree in the City right-of-way/easement without a permit, or damaging a tree can result in a fine and penalties. (Oakley Municipal Code 6.2.434 - 6.2.436; 9.1.1114)

Lastly, it is also the duty of the property owner to keep said space clear of debris.

Heritage Tree Preservation

Certain large trees (measuring 20" or larger in circumference) on both private and public property may be classified as "protected trees" in the city of Oakley. The majority of the trees having protection are in the Quercus (Oak) family. These include California or Coast Live Oak, Canyon Live Oak, Blue Oak, California Black Oak, Valley Oak, and Interior Live Oak.

For more information on protected trees, please contact the Planning Department at (925) 625-7000.