

Chapter 12.30 PUBLIC TREE MANAGEMENT

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12.30.010 Jurisdiction and administration.

It shall be the responsibility of the director of the parks, recreation and cultural services department (hereafter “director”) to manage and oversee the planting, care, maintenance and removal of all trees on all streets, rights-of-way, and city-owned public property within the city limits in accordance with the provisions of this chapter. [Ord. 617 § 1, 2012]

12.30.020 Tree board.

The parks, recreation and cultural services board is authorized to serve as the city’s tree board. The tree board shall be advisory to the city council. The primary responsibility of the tree board shall be to make policy recommendations concerning the management of trees located on city-owned public property and in city rights-of-way. The tree board shall be comprised of all members of the parks, recreation and cultural services board acting in an ex officio capacity, and the roles, officers and terms of the tree board shall be the same as the parks, recreation and cultural services board. [Ord. 617 § 1, 2012]

12.30.030 Adoption of administrative procedures.

The director is authorized to prepare and adopt after public notice and opportunity for public comment procedures, technical standards, and standard plans necessary to facilitate implementation of this chapter, including a list of approved street trees in the Engineering Development Guide after notice and opportunity for public comment. The director shall make recommendations for the fee in lieu of replacement street trees for adoption in the city fee schedule in Chapter [3.01](#) SMC. [Ord. 617 § 1, 2012]

12.30.040 Right-of-way street trees.

A. A right-of-way use permit shall be required and issued by the director of the parks, recreation and cultural services department (hereafter “director”) for planting street trees in rights-of-way adjacent to the applicant’s property according to the variety and spacing approved in the Engineering Development Guide if such activity does not physically disturb the existing or planned public use of the right-of-way. Planted street trees shall be maintained by the applicant in accordance with the issued right-of-way use permit.

B. A right-of-way use permit shall be required and shall only be issued by the director for the nonexempt pruning or removal of trees in rights-of-way adjacent to the applicant’s property in compliance with the following:

1. Limits on removal under critical area regulations.
2. No permit shall be issued for removal of trees on rights-of-way that have not been opened with public improvements, including, but not limited to, streets, sidewalks, pathways, and underground or overhead utilities.
3. No trees listed in the Engineering Development Guide as approved street tree varieties shall be removed regardless of size unless the tree is removed by the city as hazardous or causing damage to public or private infrastructure.
4. All existing trees six inches in diameter at breast height or greater allowed to be removed under clearing and grading regulations shall be replaced with an approved variety of street tree in the area of removal according to the replacement formula in SMC [20.50.360\(C\)\(1\)](#) through (3). Replacement trees shall be maintained by the applicant in accordance with the issued right-of-way use permit. If the director determines there is no suitable space for replanting street trees in the vicinity of removal, the applicant shall replant at public sites approved by the director or pay a fee in lieu of replacement according to the current city fee schedule to be used exclusively for planting public trees in rights-of-way, parks or other public places.
5. All removed trees or pruned material shall be removed from the right-of-way and the right-of-way shall be restored in accordance with the issued right-of-way use permit. [Ord. 627 § 1, 2012]

The Shoreline Municipal Code is current through Ordinance 697, and legislation passed through August 11, 2014.

Disclaimer: The City Clerk's Office has the official version of the Shoreline Municipal Code. Users should contact the City Clerk's Office for ordinances passed subsequent to the ordinance cited above.
