



## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS REMOVAL OF FIRE-DAMAGED HAZARDOUS TREES

### **What are Street Trees and who is responsible for them?**

A Street Tree is any tree located between the sidewalk and the curb of a street. Normally, the owner of a lot fronting or adjacent to any portion of a street is responsible for maintaining any trees, shrubs, hedges or other landscaping along the street or within the street right-of-way adjacent to his or her property. In the burn-scar areas, the City will remove all Street Trees determined to be hazardous by FEMA guidelines. Property owners will be responsible for their replacement and replanting.

### **How was it determined which Street Trees within the burn-scar areas will be removed?**

A certified arborist conducted an in-person inspection of all Street Trees within the burn-scar areas. The arborist used his/her professional knowledge and a set of guidelines provided by FEMA to determine which trees pose a hazard and must be removed. In some instances, a tree may show signs of re-growth but is structurally unsound and therefore hazardous and will be removed. Fire-impacted trees less than 6-inches in diameter and under 4-foot-six-inches tall are not considered hazardous by FEMA guidelines and will not be removed.

### **How will I know which trees are being removed?**

Before beginning the tree removal work, the contractor will identify the trees being removed with a RED X painted on the trunk of the tree.

View a list of the trees that will be removed: <http://arcg.is/nD4KH>

### **Will the City of Santa Rosa be removing damaged trees on private property?**

The fire-damaged trees being removed are those in the public right-of-way, also referred to as street trees. Removal of trees on private property is the responsibility of the property owner.

### **Do I need to obtain a permit to remove a fire damaged tree on my property?**

No, discretionary tree removal permits are not required within the wildfire impacted areas (Resilient City overlay district). However, you will need to photograph the tree's condition prior to its removal. The photographs must then be presented at the time of building permit or entitlement application submittal. Planning and Economic Development staff members will evaluate the submitted photographic information, as well as the pre-fire tree conditions through a review of the historical permit record and/or an examination of historical aerial photographs, and work with property owners to encourage, or require in the case of discretionary permits such as Hillside Development Permits or Design Review applications, an appropriate and proportionate tree replanting program commensurate with the pre-fire tree conditions for each parcel.

**Do I need to obtain a permit to replant street trees in front of my home?**

A tree removal permit is not required within the wildfire impacted areas of the City of Santa Rosa (Resilient City Overlay District). Before replanting we recommend that you use our list of trees varieties that are recommended for sidewalk planter strips. The list can be found at [www.srcity.org/PreferredTrees](http://www.srcity.org/PreferredTrees).

**Who will be responsible for replanting street trees?**

Property owners are responsible for trees, shrubs, hedges and other landscaping along streets and in sidewalk areas adjacent to their property. Property owners who wish to move forward with replanting the area in front of their property are encouraged to do so. A list of approved street trees is provided by the City and available at: [www.srcity.org/PreferredTrees](http://www.srcity.org/PreferredTrees). The City will provide an inspection of the tree once it is planted, upon property owner request. This inspection is optional. Please call 707-543-3770 to request an inspection.