

CITY STREET TREES and TREES FOR YOUR YARD/PROPERTY

City policies and ordinance restrictions for planting trees in the park strip (between the sidewalk and the street) and free street trees

Kevin Hocker, the city's urban forester (city arborist) answered one of my questions by email and I would like to share the information. Under the new tree ordinance (2016), trees in the park strip are considered to be city trees. Anyone who would like a tree planted in the park strip in front of their home may call 311 and request one. The city will be more than happy to accommodate these requests during its planting season, which runs from October to April. The city can work with you regarding species and placement if you have specific preferences or questions. In order to plant one yourself, you will need a permit. The city arborist has the discretion to waive the fee for the permit, so he hopes that the fee won't discourage anyone from requesting a permit (remember to ask that the fee be waived).

Trees planted without a permit will be inspected by a city arborist who has the discretion to either accept the tree into the city's tree inventory or to remove the tree from the park strip. Technically, planting a tree without a permit is a violation of the city code and could result in a fine of approximately \$250, but the city's intent is to work with its residents -- not to penalize them for trying to help. There would have to be an extraordinary situation to warrant a penalty. Ultimately, the city is trying to ensure that the right tree goes in the right place and that the city has an accurate record of it so it can provide the proper maintenance for the tree in the future.

If you believe that a tree planted by the city on the park strip in front of your home may not be the best species for its location, and/or if you believe a tree should be removed and replaced you may call 311, or email urbanforestry@cityofsacramento.org and make the request. Please be sure to give an accurate description of the location and your concerns. A city arborist will inspect the trees and take the appropriate actions.

The city's street tree information is on this page: [City Street Trees](#)

Here is a direct link to the list: [City Street Tree List](#)

Sacramento Shade for your yard: SMUD and Sacramento Tree Foundation

All Sacramento County residents and SMUD Customers can qualify for a free landscape assessment and up to 10 free shade trees!

<https://www.sactree.com/shadetrees>

How it works

- Check to see if you're eligible for the program - are you a SMUD customer? Do you have space for trees on your property? See the form at the link above for details.

- Make an appointment with a Community Forester. Assessment appointments are either in person or virtual if your property qualifies.
- Meet with your Community Forester to determine the best spots to plant and which trees your property qualifies to receive. They offer over 40 different species!
- Your trees will be delivered to your property with stakes, ties, and instructions.
- Once you receive your trees, it's time for you to plant them! Check out the [planting video](#) or refer to the tip cards delivered with your tree.