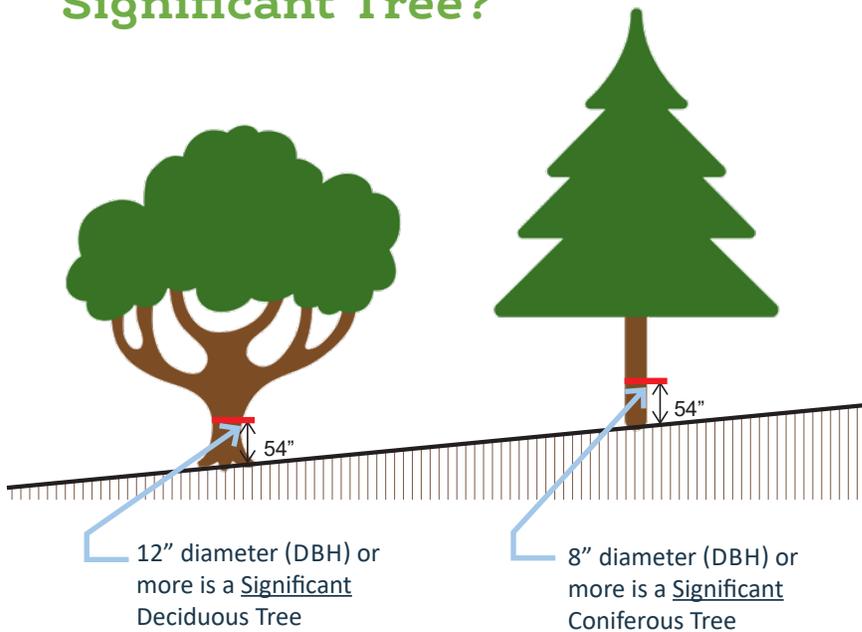


Tree Removal Permitting Guide

The community of Sammamish has a goal of enhancing & promoting tree canopy coverage. To address this goal, Sammamish Municipal Code requires a permit and replacement tree planting each time a Significant Tree is to be removed within Sammamish city limits.

What is a Significant Tree?



Measuring your tree



DIAMETER BREAST HEIGHT (DBH)

DBH is the standard to measure the size of a tree and is 54 inches (or 4.5 feet) above the ground.

How to find the tree's DBH:

1. Wrap a soft measuring tape around where the tree trunk is 54 inches above ground to find the circumference.
2. Use the online calculator on the City's website to find the DBH, or calculate it yourself by dividing the circumference by 3.14.
3. If your tree trunk splits into several branches at 54 inches, you'll need to measure the circumference and calculate the DBH of each branch. Then use the calculator on the City's website to find the tree's equivalent DBH.

www.sammamish.us/trees

Finding the right Arborist

Those applying for a permit for Hazard Tree Removal or Unhealthy Tree Removal within the City of Sammamish must hire a Professional Arborist certified by the International Society of Arboriculture (ISA)*.

Arborists assisting with Hazard Tree Removal must be certified through the TRAQ (Tree Risk Assessment Qualification) program, while those assisting with Unhealthy Tree Removal must be trained in tree management.

City staff verify Arborist credentials through the ISA database at www.isa-arbor.com. Please ask your tree consultant/tree company/landscape company to provide arborist qualifications to be included with the application.

**If the tree is visibly dead, an arborist is not required for an unhealthy tree removal permit.*

What Type of Tree Removal Permit Do You Need?

HEALTHY

- You have a Significant Tree.
- Pruning won't address what you want to do.
- The tree isn't located in a critical area or a critical area buffer. (Chapter 21A.50 SMC)

UNHEALTHY

- You have an Arborist report stating that the tree is unhealthy & needs to be removed.
- The tree can't be partially saved or managed through pruning, cabling or other measures.

HAZARD

- You have a tree report from a TRAQ-certified Arborist.
- The tree has a structural defect that will lead to damage of property, roads, or prevent emergency access.

IMMINENT*

- The tree has already been removed because there was an emergency and it was threatening someone's life or property.
- You have photographic or video proof that the tree was an imminent threat.

** Note: This situation is rare.*

REQUIRED TREE REPLACEMENT

SIGNIFICANT TREE

(Coniferous: 8" or more DBH; Deciduous: 12" or more DBH)



one native tree

HERITAGE TREE

(22" or more DBH)



two native trees

LANDMARK TREE

(32" or more DBH)



three native trees



Did you know?

Pruning does not require a permit when:

- Less than 30% of the tree's branches are removed over the life of the tree.
- It doesn't include topping (which is not allowed).
- It's done in a way that protects tree health & growth.