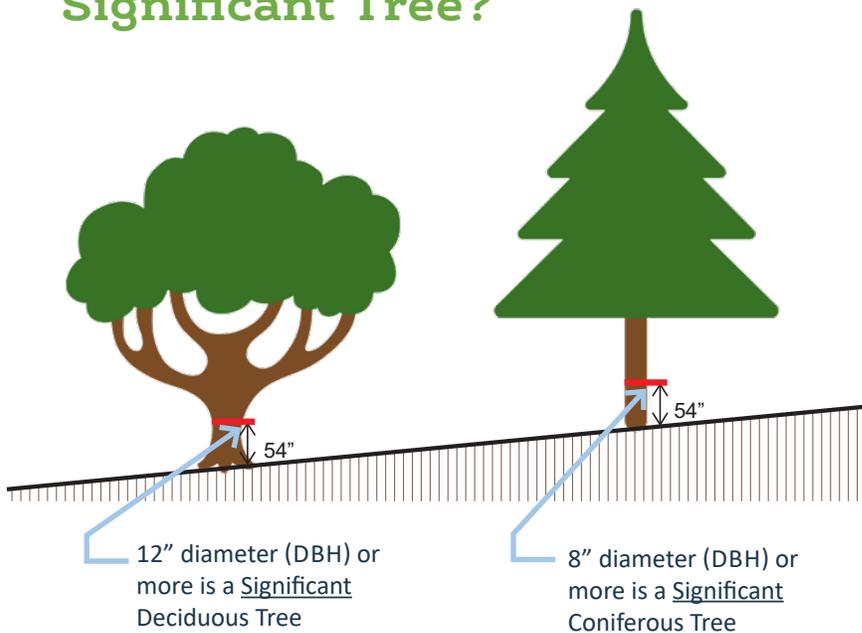


# Tree Removal Permitting Guide

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](http://www.sammamish.us/trees)

## Finding the right Arborist

Those with an unhealthy or hazard tree must hire a TRAQ (Tree Risk Assessment Qualification) certified Professional Arborist licensed by the International Society of Arboriculture (ISA)\* to evaluate the health and condition of your tree and complete a ISA Basic Tree Risk Assessment Form.

City staff verify Arborist credentials through the ISA database at [www.isa-arbor.com](http://www.isa-arbor.com). Please ask your tree consultant/tree company/landscape company to provide arborist qualifications so that you can provide them to the City if needed.

*\*If the tree is visibly dead, an arborist is not required, but you will need to provide photo documentation as part of your application.*

# Types of Tree Removal

## HEALTHY

- A Significant Tree where pruning won't address what you want to do.
- The tree isn't located in a critical area or a critical area buffer ([SDC 21.03.020](#)).

## UNHEALTHY OR HAZARD

- The tree can't be partially saved or managed through pruning, cabling or other measures; OR
- It has a structural defect that will damage of property, roads, or prevent emergency access.
- You have an ISA Basic Tree Risk Assessment Form from a TRAQ-certified Arborist.

## IMMINENT THREAT\*

- The tree was removed because there was an emergency & 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.