



GUIDELINES FOR TREES & ADUs

CITY OF PALO ALTO – URBAN FORESTRY SECTION

Use the following guidelines to help determine how an ADU building project may interact with existing trees and the City's updated Tree Protection Ordinance

State Pathway ADUs - PAMC 18.09 Table 1 (including one detached ADU up to 800sqft):

- Trees, including protected trees, may be removed without meeting tree ordinance requirements for ADU only projects that meet the state requirements for ministerial review. [See 8.10.050(b)(4)]
 - A Tree Disclosure Statement as part of the *T1 Tree Protection Sheet* is still required as part of the application checklist, but it may be completed by the applicant. [See 18.09.030(m) and 8.10.040(a)(1)]
 - An arborist report and/or tree preservation report are not required. [See *T1 Tree Protection Sheet* and *Tree & Landscape Technical Manual*]
 - Tree protection measures for private protected trees or public street trees may be required. [See 8.10.070 & *Tree & Landscape Technical Manual*]
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Local Guidelines ADUs - PAMC 18.09 Table 2 (essentially ADU's larger than 800sqft):

- For Table 2 ADU only projects, trees, including protected trees, can only be removed in accordance with PAMC 8.10.050 [see 18.09.040(g)]
 - Exceptions will be granted if there is no other way to allow an ADU within the minimum standards set forth in state law without removing a protected tree. [See 8.10.050(b)(4)]
 - A Tree Disclosure Statement as part of the *T1 Tree Protection Sheet* is still required as part of the application but may be completed by the applicant. [See 18.09.030(m)]
 - If the project will impact the TPZ of a protected tree to remain, a tree preservation report prepared by an arborist will be required.
 - Tree protection for impacted protected trees (private or public) is required. [See 8.10.070 & *Tree & Landscape Technical Manual*]
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ADUs as part of a larger building project (SFR tear down/rebuild/major remodel, etc.):

- Treatment of protected trees impacted by the planned ADU is determined by PAMC 18.09 Table 1 or Table 2 status. Other protected trees on site are subject to full compliance with Tree Protection Ordinance.
 - A Tree Disclosure Statement as part of the *T1 Tree Protection Sheet* and tree preservation report (if called for) must be completed by an arborist.
 - Tree protection for impacted protected trees (private or public) is required. [See 8.10.070 & *Tree & Landscape Technical Manual*]
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JADUs and Garage/Existing Structure Conversions:

- Per PAMC 8.10.040, A Tree Disclosure Statement as part of the *T1 Tree Protection Sheet* is only required if the project includes:
 - A change to an existing building footprint, or
 - Any grading, trenching, excavation, paving, or
 - A change in landscaping that could alter water availability to established trees.

The above information is for general guidance only. Please contact the Urban Forestry Section or the Development Center for project specific questions or concerns.

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