

## Do I need a permit?

If your tree/plant meets any of the following criteria, YES, you do need a permit:

- **Location: Your tree is located on city property**
  - **Parking Strip (the area between the sidewalk and the street)**
  - **Within 30' of the center of the road: City property often extends past the edge of the sidewalk/curb**
  - **On the right-of-way (city-owned property):**
    - **Streets**
    - **Alleys**

The right-of-way widths are different in different parts of the city. Often these imaginary boundaries exist past the curb/sidewalk or other logical structure. Sometimes, they extend onto what you think is your/private property. If the trunk of the tree sits even partially on/past this boundary, then you definitely need a permit.

- **The tree sits on a critical slope OR in a slide-prone area:**  
<http://web1.seattle.gov/dpd/parceldata/default.aspx>
- **Size**
  - **General Rule: The diameter of the trunk is 30" or more**
  - **The diameter of the trunk meets the Director's Rule 16-2008 Threshold Diameter for an Exceptional Tree:** <http://www.seattle.gov/dpd/codes/dr/DR2008-16x.pdf>
    - **If the tree is not listed, the DBH threshold is 30"**

## Which Permit do I need?

- **If your tree is on an ECA (greenbelt, critical slope, etc):**  
<http://www.seattle.gov/dpd/permits/permittypes/treevegetationremoval/default.htm>
- **If your tree is on private property & is Exceptional:**  
<http://www.seattle.gov/DPD/Publications/CAM/cam331b.pdf>
- **If your tree is on city property:** <http://www.seattle.gov/transportation/treeplantapp.htm>

## Can you get the permit for me?

If you want Ballard Tree to obtain these permit(s) for you, there is a fee for permit preparation which includes:

- Clerical fee for the paperwork

- Time spent on-site
- Arborist's report (if the city requires it for that particular permit)
- Any other reports/assessments required by the city

The total for the permit is variable depending on the number of trees and how many of the above items are required.

**How do I know if my tree is on city property?**

**There are 3 methods you can use to determine if a tree is on your property:**

- 1. Slowest/Free:** Apply for a [permit](#) → the city sends someone out to look at your tree and if the tree is not on city property (and does NOT require a permit) they'll let you know. If it is on city property, they'll give you a response or a permit stating what you can or cannot do to the tree. This method is generally the best (if you can afford to wait), because if the tree is on city property, you'll need to apply for the permit anyway.
- 2. Fastest/Time-Consuming/Small Fee:** You can contact the City of Seattle's [GIS Map Counter Services](#) to request a [custom map](#) that shows the property line (typically measured as X number of feet into the property from the edge of the sidewalk on a survey map), then go out and measure to see where the trunk of the tree sits.
- 3. Most-Expensive:** Have a professional survey of your property done by a [surveyor](#) (or if you've already had one done, refer to the measurements on the survey)

Can you find out for me if my tree is on city property?

Yes, if you want Ballard Tree to determine whether or not the tree is on city property, we can do that for a fee that includes:

- Time spent to go down to the [GIS Map Counter](#) (47th Floor of the Seattle Municipal Tower)
- \$22 Mapping service fee
- Time spent to go down to your property and measure to determine if the trunk sits on your property or the city's

[https://docs.google.com/document/d/1joOpJ2TRMG\\_xpNCpauvw96bkugix7SEEuX3ovbC1wg/edit?pref=2&pli=1#](https://docs.google.com/document/d/1joOpJ2TRMG_xpNCpauvw96bkugix7SEEuX3ovbC1wg/edit?pref=2&pli=1#)