

## Front Yard Trees

### **Chapter 5 - L-22 Mature Front Yard Tree Maintenance**

Existing language -keep

Homeowner/homebuilder shall be responsible for all landscaping that falls within their ownership to be maintained in a clean, attractive, and well-kept condition and to promptly replace any dead or dying plant material.

Upon approval of the landscape plans by the HARC, the minimum tree requirement must be maintained at all times and mature trees shall not be removed by a homeowner/homebuilder without prior HARC consent.

Designated fire buffer zones shall be maintained as required by the City of Vallejo.

Each homeowner/homebuilder shall keep, maintain, water, plant, and replant all slope banks located on his/her lot to prevent erosion and to create an attractive appearance. Homebuilders of lots with no plans for improvement in the immediate future shall be responsible for ongoing maintenance. Erosion control and removal of weeds, trash, and other debris regularly are required. Removed vegetation shall be removed from the site

### **New language to be added**

**Any tree located in the front yard is considered a mature tree if it has a circumference of 20 inches or greater, measure 24 inches above the ground.**

**No street tree and/or mature front yard tree shall be topped or severely trimmed in a manner that will jeopardize the life or appearance of the tree. Topping shall be defined as the removal of the upper portion of a tree's trunk and cutting off its main branches in a straight line main branches with an exposed cut. This practice significantly alters the tree's natural shape and increases its vulnerability to disease that significantly alters the tree's shape and exposes the tree to disease.**

**No mature tree in the front yard shall be removed or replaced without HARC's consent.**

**No mature tree in the front yard shall be trimmed without HARC's consent.**

**HARC application for mature tree removal and trimming must include a report from a professional tree service or arborist.**

**Topping and trimming without HARC approval is subject to fines.**

**HARC has the discretion to decide if a tree trimming can be reviewed as a minor project with no fee or requires full Committee review.**

**CONTACT HARC before commencing any work involving your front yard trees.**

**Tree Pruning:**

**Tree pruning, defined as removing dead or unhealthy branches, is an activity that is encouraged and does not require HARC approval. The primary focus is dead, diseased, damaged, crossing branches, or low-hanging branches over the sidewalk under one inch in diameter.**