



## Frequently Asked Questions Tree Removal Permit

Planning & Development  
153 Willowbend Road  
Peachtree City, GA 30269  
P: 770-487-5731  
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### **When is a Tree Removal Permit required?**

1. Any understory tree 8" or greater DBH OR any canopy tree 18" or greater DBH. An understory tree is one that is shorter and grows under larger trees. Examples are dogwoods, cherry trees, redbuds, or Japanese maples. Bradford Pears are specifically exempted from the understory category and only need a permit for removal if they are 18" or greater DBH. DBH (Diameter at Breast Height) is defined on the following page.
2. Pruning, or limbing trees does not require a permit as long as the tree does not die from this pruning.
3. Trees and vegetation in environmentally protected areas may NOT be removed. These are areas such as wetland buffers, stream buffers, tree-save landscape buffers, watershed protection buffers, or conservation easements.
4. Trees and vegetation on public property and in Greenbelts may NOT be removed. If you have a concern about a tree in the Greenbelt, please contact Public Works at 770-487-5183.

### **When is a Tree Removal Permit NOT required?**

Tree Removal Permits shall not be required when:

1. Trees pose an immediate life safety hazard.
2. Trees are damaged during an emergency (tornado, ice storm, or other act of nature) and the requirements of this article have been waived by City Council; or,
3. The trees do not meet the minimum size requirement for a permit (see the first question above.)

### **Is there a fee for obtaining a Tree Removal Permit?**

Not usually. A fee may be required to remove a specimen tree.

### **What is the procedure for applying for a Tree Removal Permit?**

1. Completed Tree Removal Permit application signed by both the property owner and the tree removal contractor (Applications are available on the city's website at [www.peachtree-city.org](http://www.peachtree-city.org))
2. Include a list of the trees to be removed, including diameter, species, location on the property, reason for requesting removal, and distance from the nearest property line. (When the trees are located within 5 feet of the adjoining property line, the City may require a letter of support from the neighboring property owner or a tree survey by a licensed surveyor.)
3. Provide photo documentation of each tree to be removed. The diameter of each tree must be shown in the photo. Additional photos may be required to show proof of disease for specimen trees. The City may require an arborist letter if death/disease is not evident to a layperson from the provided photos.
4. Written authorization from the Homeowner's Association (HOA), if applicable.
5. Submit application through our [permitting portal](#).

### **How do I calculate the diameter of a tree (measuring DBH)?**

The diameter of a tree is determined by measuring around the trunk (circumference) at 4.5 feet above the ground and dividing this number by 3.14.



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See the guide below for more complicated DBH measurements:

<b>Tree has branches or bumps which interfere</b>  Measure DBH below the branch or bump.	<b>Tree is on a slope</b>  Measure diameter 4.5 ft from the ground on the upper side of the slope.	<b>Tree leans</b>  Measure 4.5 ft up the stem in the direction of the lean OR measure 4.5 ft from the midpoint of the lean.	<b>Tree forks near DBH</b>  The measurement is recorded at the narrowest part of the main stem below the fork.	<b>Tree splits into several trunks</b>  Measure DBH of each trunk separately and square. Add these squares together and take the square root of the sum.

## What is a specimen tree?

Specimen trees are protected by Peachtree City's ordinance. Specimen trees are:

TYPE	DIAMETER (DBH)	CHARACTERISTICS	EXAMPLES
Hardwood	20" and larger OR 24" for Sweet Gums	Any tree that loses its leaves in the fall.	Maple, Oak, Sweet Gum
Softwood	24" and larger	Any tree that is green all year.	Pine, Spruce, Cypress
Understory	8" and larger	Any tree that grows underneath the canopy of a hardwood or softwood tree.	Dogwood, Redbud

## Can I remove a specimen tree from my property?

Specimen trees may only be removed if one of the following conditions is met:

- The tree is dead or dying or is diseased
- The tree is in the direct area where construction is approved by a building permit.
- The tree prevents vehicular access or access to utilities where no viable alternative is available
- The property owner contends the tree is an economic burden and contributes \$20/caliper inch DBH to the City's Tree Fund. This is a dedicated fund only for the planting of trees on public property.

## Am I required to maintain or replant trees on my property?

Possibly. The City's ordinance stipulates that every residential lot must have at least 2 trees that are 2" in diameter or greater. If you remove all the trees on your property, you will be required to plant at least 2 trees.

## Does my Homeowner's Association (HOA) need to approve my removing trees on my property?

Yes. You must contact your designated HOA Representative and provide a letter of approval from them along with your Tree Removal Permit application.