

Tree Ordinance Development Timeline

The following is a timeline of the landmark dates between 2021 and 2023 leading to the City Council adopting the City's first tree ordinance:

- 8/17/21 The Council held an initial discussion regarding the need for an ordinance to protect trees in Redondo Beach. A draft ordinance proposed by residents Mara Lang and Laura MacMoran was considered. Staff was directed to solicit input from the Recreation & Parks Commission, Public Works Commission and Planning Commission regarding four potential elements of a tree ordinance:
- A definition of protected/heritage trees
 - Prohibiting removal of parkways trees for driveway access as part of construction projects
 - Prohibiting removal of protected/heritage trees located on private property
 - The types of trees that are recommended and discouraged from being planted on public and private property
- 11/11/21 The Recreation & Parks Commission reviewed the tree ordinance criteria and made the following recommendations:
- That the City establish a heritage tree designation
 - That trees be protected from driveway expansions
 - That the City establish regulations regarding removal of private property trees
 - That recommended and discouraged trees species lists be developed
- 12/1/21 The Public Works Commission reviewed the tree ordinance criteria and made the following recommendations:
- That the City establish a heritage tree designation and a public review process for removal of heritage trees
 - Maintaining the current procedures used by the Public Works Department for evaluating driveway-related tree removal requests
 - That the tree ordinance address certain trees on private property
 - That recommended and discouraged trees species lists be developed
- 1/20/22 The Planning Commission reviewed the tree ordinance criteria and made the following recommendations:

- That the City develop a tree ordinance that includes a protected/heritage tree designation
- That the ordinance prohibit removal of trees to provide driveway access as part of new construction projects
- That the ordinance prohibit removal of heritage trees on private property
- That recommended and discouraged trees species lists be developed

3/15/22 The City Council reviewed the input from the three Commissions & directed staff to develop an ordinance to regulate trees on both public and private property, and to include the following elements:

- The goal of replacing removed trees on a one-to-one basis and regulating the unfettered removal of trees in an effort to preserve and grow a desirable tree canopy in Redondo Beach
- No front yard tree removal without a one-to-one replacement with a 24" tree from the favored species list
- Allowing removal of dead, sick, disfavored or nuisance causing species in front yard setbacks, with one-to-one replacement
- A fee be paid to the City tree fund if a rear yard or side yard tree is removed. Violations resulting in a fine to cover the cost of planting five trees, plus \$15,000
- Replacement trees be minimum 24" box
- Incorporate the best aspects from the Manhattan Beach, Encinitas and Beverly Hills tree ordinances,
- Small fees paid to the City to cover the cost of tree replacements
- Objective standards for City staff and experts to have reasonable flexibility to uphold the goals of the City
- A heritage tree definition, favored species list and disfavored species list
- When a property sells, a requirement to install a 24" box tree in the parkway if a tree is missing
- No criminal enforcement of violations

1/17/23 Staff presented a draft ordinance addressing the various elements requested by the Council. The Council heard testimony from 21 residents and received 29 eComments. After discussion, the Council directed staff to return with an ordinance containing the existing language pertaining to trees on public property and removing all sections addressing trees on private property. Council also directed staff to explore an incentive program for property owners to plant and replace trees on private property.

2/7/22 Ordinance No. 3251-23 was introduced for first reading

2/14/23 Council adopted Ordinance No. 3251-23