



## 2009 LFPMC Chapter 16.14, Tree Protection FAQs

The City of Lake Forest Park has adopted revised regulations relating to the preservation of trees. This Frequently Asked Questions handout is intended to provide orientation to these changes.

### Which Type of Tree Removal Permit Do I Need?

- A Level I permit is issued for removal of no more than two significant\* trees from a developed property in any twelve-month period (see Level I Tree Permit Customer Information Bulletin).
- A Level II permit is required for removal of between two to five significant\* trees (see Level II Tree Permit Customer Information Bulletin).
- Trees in sensitive areas (wetlands, steep slope hazard areas and streams) or their associated buffers require a Sensitive Area Work Permit as regulated by LFPMC 16.16.
- Emergency activities necessary to remedy an immediate threat to public health, safety or welfare are exempt from requiring a permit.
- Grading activity when there is a potential impact to significant tree(s) by activity on a developed site requires a Level II permit to conduct a tree assessment.

\*A significant tree is a tree with a diameter of at least 6 inches as measured at 4.5 feet above average grade.

### What are the Requirements for Tree Replacement?

- All applications will be checked to ensure that the number of trees on site is at least 35% of the number of trees on site as of January 1, 2004. If proposed trees for removal would take the tree count below 35 percent of the trees that were on the property in 2004, then a corresponding number of replacement trees may be required.
- All Level I and Level II permits require a 1 to 1 replacement of significant trees. For Level II applications, Landmark Trees (those with a diameter 28 inches or larger) require a 2 to 1 replacement ratio.
- Replacement trees must be a minimum of 2 inch caliper for deciduous trees and 6 to 8 feet tall for evergreen trees.
- Replacement trees must be chosen from the Lake Forest Park Tree List, or be approved by the administrator.
- \$300 per tree may be paid into the City Forestry Account in lieu of replacement. Off site replacement may also be an option.
- Inspection of replacement trees must be complete prior to final approval.

### What Are the Posting Requirements for Permits?

- Applicants will receive a Notice of Application which must be posted on site for the following time periods depending on the type of application:
  - Level I Notices must be posted on site two days prior to tree removal.
  - Level II Notices must be posted on site two weeks prior to tree removal.
  - Both Level I and Level II Notices must remain on site at least one week after the approved activity has been completed.
- Work can commence once Level I and Level II approved permits are posted on site.

### What Is the Penalty for Removing Trees Without a Permit?

- In accordance with LFPMC 16.14.130 Enforcement, a fee equivalent to triple the fee associated with a Level II Tree Permit (\$100) will be charged to any person who conducts unpermitted tree removal activity requiring a Level I or Level II Tree Permit.