



**City of Sammamish
Tree Management Public Information Handout**

Unhealthy Tree Removal

Do you have an unhealthy tree on your property you want removed? Are you an arborist, tree care company, or landscaping company performing tree work in the City of Sammamish at the request of the property owner?

If either of these questions applies to you the information listed below may assist you in navigating City of Sammamish tree preservation regulations established in the Sammamish Municipal Code section SMC 21A.37¹.

City Tree Rules: <http://www.codepublishing.com/WA/Sammamish/html/sammamish21a/Sammamish21A37.html#21A.37>

NOTE: Tree removal in violation of the City's tree preservation standards is considered a criminal misdemeanor and is subject to civil penalties which may include site restoration, fine, and imprisonment.

This information applies to:

- Developed single family residential properties
- Developed commercial properties

This information does not apply to:

- Proposed development
- Speculative clearing

Significant Tree: A coniferous tree with a diameter of eight (8) inches or more DBH² or a deciduous tree with a diameter of twelve (12) inches or more DBH that is noninvasive and in a healthy condition.

Restrictions on unhealthy significant tree removal: Property owners may elect to remove unhealthy significant trees on their property without permit in accordance with SMC 21A.37, although notification is required. When located within regulated critical area features or buffers (erosion hazard areas, frequently flooded areas, landslide hazard areas, seismic hazard areas, critical aquifer recharge areas, wetlands, streams, and fish and wildlife habitat conservation areas), as defined by SMC 21A.15.254, tree removal and clearing activity is restricted to that allowed under SMC 21A.50. If you have unhealthy trees you wish to remove within proximity to one of these areas please see contact a City Planner for more information.

Steps to remove an unhealthy significant tree:

Step 1: Determine if the tree qualifies as unhealthy. Have a qualified Licensed Arborist³ complete an assessment of the tree's health and provide a written report on tree health. The following factors are to be considered: (**NOTE:** If your tree professional is not an ISA Licensed Arborist they are not qualified to assess tree health and make an unhealthy tree determination.) (**Exception:** If evidence (photos) can be provided demonstrating the tree is dead an arborists report is not required.)

-Tree health and condition.

-If considered unhealthy the reasons why it is considered as unhealthy.

¹ <http://www.codepublishing.com/WA/Sammamish/html/sammamish21a/Sammamish21A37.html#21A.37>

² Tree size is measured in Diameter at Breast Height (DBH) – standard forestry methodology for measuring tree size.

³ A qualified Licensed Arborist is a Professional Arborist licensed by the International Society of Arboriculture (ISA) specifically trained in tree management. The City of Sammamish verifies Arborist credentials through the ISA database at <http://www.isa-arbor.com/findanarborist/arboristsearch.aspx> . Please ask your tree consultant/tree company/landscape company to provide arborist qualifications for your records.



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- Recommendations to improve the trees health, if possible.
- If tree is considered as unhealthy and non-recoverable if tree trunk could be converted a snag.
- If tree cannot be converted to a snag a finding that removal is necessary.

Step 2: Determine if the unhealthy tree can be converted to a snag. Is it possible to meet your objectives without completely removing the tree? Creating a 'snag' out of the tree trunk can be a benefit to the City's bird populations serving as a valuable habitat feature. Partial retention as an alternative to removal is strongly encouraged to help maintain the City's valuable habitat features.

Step 3: Removal of unhealthy significant trees is required to achieve desired condition/objective. If the Licensed Arborist determines the tree is unhealthy and should be removed notification to the City must be provided as follows.

Step 4: Prepare Documentation. The certified Licensed Arborist must complete and sign the following forms to be provided to the City. The forms should be provided in either hard copy or electronic format.

- Arborists report (see Step 1 above).
- City of Sammamish Unhealthy Tree Affidavit (available online and at permit center).
- Basic Site Sketch depicting location of tree(s) to be modified or removed (see below).
- Replanting plan meeting the requirements of SMC 21A.37.280. Although a permit is not required, tree removal does require replanting (see below).

Step 5: Submit Documentation to City. The documentation listed in Step 4 above should be submitted to the City in person to the Permit Desk at City Hall or electronically via email at treeremoval@sammamish.us . There is no fee and the City does track unhealthy tree removal through the City's permit tracking database.

Step 6: Receive Confirmation from City. Following submittal of documentation listed in Step 4 above, the City will provide a receipt of confirmation. Receipt will be provided in hard copy (paper) if documentation is submitted in paper format directly to the City Hall Permit Desk. Receipt will be provided in electronic copy (PDF) if documentation is submitted electronically via email to treeremoval@sammamish.us .

Step 7: Remove the unhealthy tree(s). After you have received confirmation (see Step 6 above) you may proceed with the tree removal. Keep in mind the following:

- Blocking the public street with tree removal and tree chipping equipment is not permitted.
- Staging of tree removal equipment in the public street may be approved through Right of Way Permit approval.
- Removal of trees located on property lines requires permission from both owners.
- Removal of large trees may impact adjacent non-wind firm trees.

Thank you for your help in our commitment to preserving and growing our forest canopy. Tree removal questions can be directed to treeremoval@sammamish.us or by calling 425-295-0500.

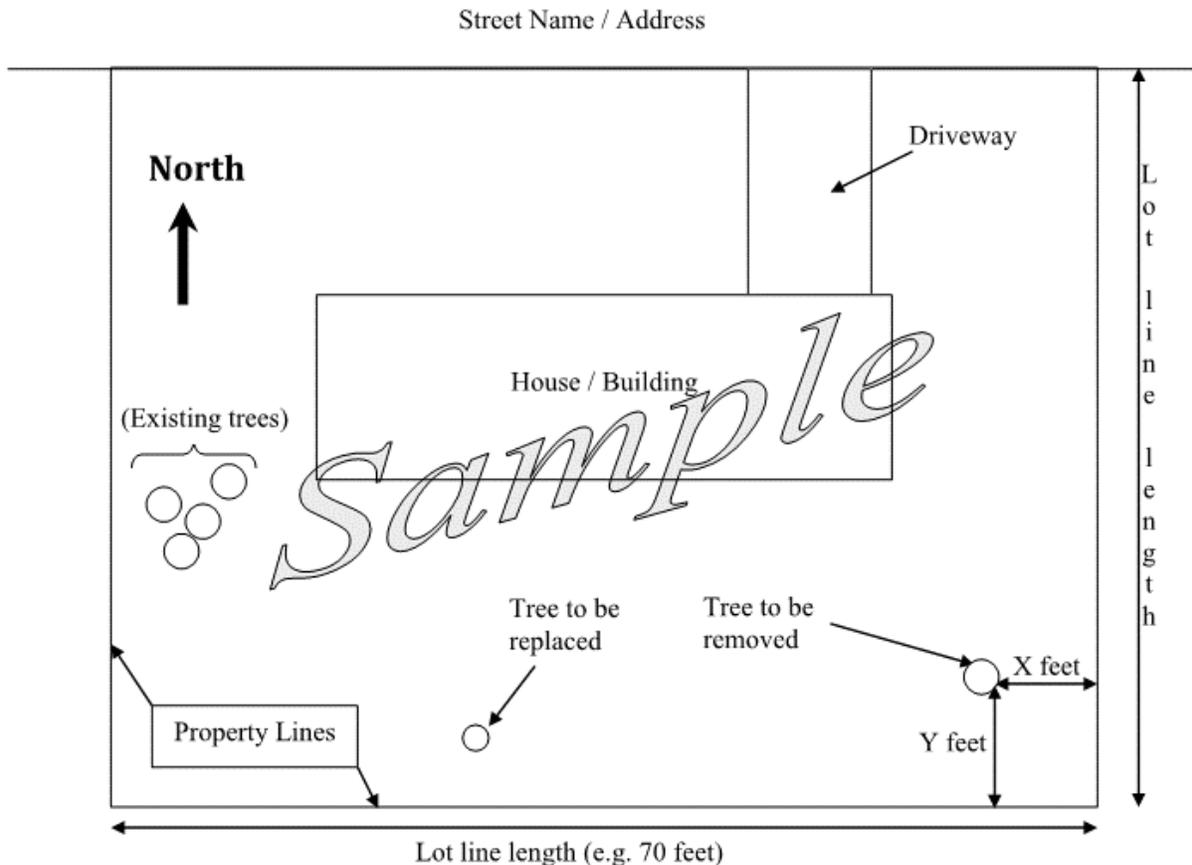
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT - UNHEALTHY TREE REMOVAL SITE PLAN REQUIREMENTS

Required Information:

1. Applicant Name
2. Street Address
3. Tax Parcel Number
4. North Arrow
5. Approximate location and dimensions of property lines
6. Approximate location and dimensions of existing buildings, driveways and septic systems
7. Approximate location of **all trees on site** meeting the significant tree definition (please include distance from at least two property lines – see drawing). Mark the trees to be removed.
8. Approximate location of any sensitive areas (e.g. wetlands, streams, steep slopes)
9. Tree diameter (inches) and species
10. Approximate location of required replacement trees.

Informational Only:

Applicant needs to provide site plan specific to parcel. This drawing will not be accepted.





COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT - UNHEALTHY TREE REMOVAL REPLANTING REQUIREMENTS

The following replanting requirements apply after removal:

Size of Tree Removed	Number of Replacement Trees
Coniferous 8" - 22" Deciduous 12" - 22"	1 replacement tree
22" - 32"	2 replacement trees
32" or larger	3 replacement trees
Tree sizes are measured in diameter at 54 inches up from the base	

- Replacement coniferous trees must be at least 8 feet in height.
- Replacement deciduous trees must be at least 2.5 inches in diameter.
- Replacement trees must be primarily native species. Non-native species will be considered at the recommendation of a Certified Arborist, or with City approval.
- Additional tree replacement standards may be found in SMC 21A.37.280.



Unhealthy Tree Affidavit

TR-3 - Unhealthy Tree Removal

This form is required for the removal of trees considered to be unhealthy as described in TR-3 - City of Sammamish Unhealthy Tree Removal process requirements. All the statements below must be checked and attested to by the property owner prior and submitted to the City for verification prior to the removal of any tree deemed unhealthy. Signature by the property owner is required for eligibility as an exemption as a non-significant tree.

- The tree(s) have been evaluated by an International Society of Arboriculture Certified Arborist and have been determined to be unhealthy.
- The Arborist has provided a report documenting the tree(s) conditions and recommending action.
- A copy of the Arborists report is attached.
- The tree(s) cannot be converted to a wildlife habitat snag and removal is necessary.
- A recommendation for replanting has been provided by the arborist meeting the requirements of SMC 21A.37.280.

Property Address: _____

Property Owner Name: _____

Property Owner Signature: _____

Arborist Name and Certification #: _____

Arborist Contact Information: _____

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