

When is a Tree Removal Permit required?

1. [Section 1130](#) of the Peachtree City Land Development Ordinance stipulates that any resident who desires to **remove any tree greater than six (6) inches in diameter** from their property must first submit a Tree Removal Permit application for review and approval.
2. Trees that are **less than six (6) inches in diameter** may be removed without obtaining a Tree Removal Permit, but only if these trees are not located within a designated tree save and landscape buffer, wetland buffer, stream buffer, watershed protection buffer, conservation easement, etc. These areas can be clearly identified when you receive a copy of the plat for your property.

Please note if there is any question as to whether or not a Tree Removal Permit is required, residents are encouraged to contact City Hall at (770) 487-5731 and speak with the city planner.

When is a Tree Removal Permit NOT required?

Tree Removal Permits shall not be required when:

1. Trees are determined to be in a hazardous or dangerous condition so as to endanger the public health, welfare and safety, requiring immediate removal;
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. Trees are found to be diseased or insect infested by the county extension service, the state forestry commission, an arborist, or an urban forester.

Is there a fee for obtaining a Tree Removal Permit?

No.

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

4. Completed Tree Removal Permit application signed by both the property owner and the tree removal contractor.
5. Include a list of the trees to be removed, including diameter, species, location on the property, reason for requesting removal, and distance from a property line
6. Provide a schematic drawing of the property showing the location of each tree to be removed. The City may require a tree survey when trees to be removed are located within 5' of the adjoining property line.
7. Provide photo documentation of each tree to be removed. Each tree must be visibly marked. The City may require an arborist letter if death/disease is not evident to a layperson from the provided photos.
8. Written authorization from the Homeowner's Association (HOA), if applicable.

An application for a Tree Removal Permit may be submitted in person or via e-mail. Applications are available at City Hall or on the city's website at www.peachtree-city.org. Electronic submittals are preferred and will expedite the review process

Tree Removal Permit

Peachtree City Planning & Development Department

153 Willowbend Road

Peachtree City, GA 30269

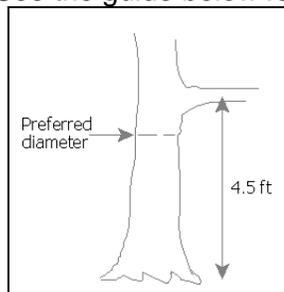
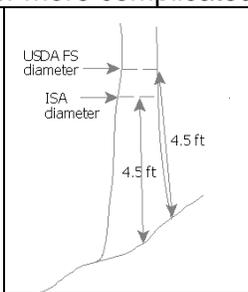
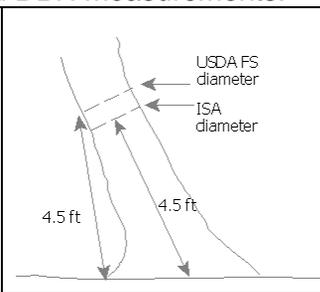
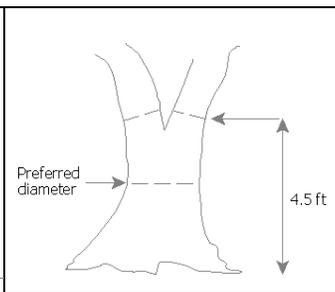
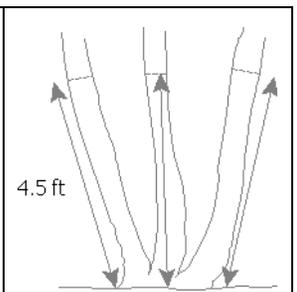
p) 770.487.5731

e) trees@peachtree-city.org

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. As an example, if the circumference of the tree measured at 4.5 feet above ground level is 38 inches, the diameter of the tree would be 12" ($38 / 3.14 = 12$ ").

See the guide below for more complicated DBH measurements:

				
<p>Tree has branches or bumps which interfere with DBH measurement.</p> <p>Measure DBH below the branch or bump. The underlying concept is to measure the diameter that would be closest to the expected DBH if branches or other irregularities were not present. Record the height at which the diameter measured.</p>	<p>Vertically growing tree is on a slope.</p> <p>There are several commonly accepted ways to find the DBH height. Probably the easiest method is to measure diameter 4.5 ft from the ground on the upper side of the slope. This method is used by the US Forest Service.</p>	<p>Tree leans</p> <p>There are several commonly accepted ways to find the DBH height. The US Forest Service measures 4.5 ft up the stem in the direction of the lean. Some references (e.g., ISA) say to measure 4.5 ft from the midpoint of the lean. However, the USFS method is probably less prone to error.</p>	<p>Tree forks below DBH or near DBH.</p> <p>The measurement is recorded at the narrowest part of the main stem below the fork. The height of the DBH measurement and the fork should be noted: (e.g., 3 ft diameter @ 2 ft [Forks @ 4 ft]).</p>	<p>Tree splits into several trunks close to ground level.</p> <p>Measure DBH of each trunk separately, using the principals shown previously. The DBH for the tree is found by taking the square root of the sum of all squared stem DBHs.</p>

What is a specimen tree?

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

TYPE	DIAMETER (DBH)	CHARACTERISTICS	EXAMPLES
Hardwood	12" and larger	Any tree that loses its leaves in the fall.	Maple, Oak, Sweet Gum
Softwood	10" and larger	Any tree that is green all year.	Pine, Spruce, Cypress
Understory	6" 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. Examples include: pool, garage, driveway, home addition, etc.
- The tree poses an immediate life safety hazard
- The tree prevents vehicular access or access to utilities where no viable alternative is available

If the tree is healthy, we recommend that you consult with a certified arborist or urban forester to discuss proper pruning and care.

Are there limitations as to when a tree may not be removed from my property?

Yes. Healthy trees and other vegetation located within tree save and landscape buffers, wetland buffers, stream buffers, watershed protection buffers, conservation easements, etc. may not be removed. These buffers should be identified on the plat of your property, a copy of which is available at City Hall.

Trees that are located within City-owned greenbelts that are dead, diseased, leaning or pose a danger to public health, welfare and safety must be inspected by the City. Removal of any trees or vegetation in the City-owned greenbelts may only be conducted by City staff, and fines are imposed for each violation.

Do trees located on my property have to be dead before I can remove them?

No. A homeowner can remove live **non-specimen** trees from their property provided they are not located within tree save and landscape buffers, wetland buffers, stream buffers, watershed protection buffers, conservation easements, etc.

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

Yes. The city's [Vegetation Protection and Landscape Requirements Ordinance](#) stipulates that every platted residential lot within the city limits shall plant or maintain no less than two (2) trees at least 2" in diameter within the boundaries of the subject lot.

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

Yes. The City of Peachtree City does not and cannot enforce adopted Covenants and Restrictions for neighborhoods. You must contact your designated HOA Representative and provide a letter of approval from them along with your Tree Removal Permit application.

What do I do if a tree within the right-of-way or a city-owned greenbelt has fallen onto my property?

Contact Public Works at (770) 487-5183 and notify them the tree has fallen and needs to be removed.