FAQs

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Frequently Asked Questions:

Q: Once I submit the signed permit and pay the fees, am I free to have my contractor trim the tree?

No, you and your contractor must receive an emailed approval from RCSD with date and time range that your approved trimming is allowed. Work must take place within that date range and during the specified hours and RCSD must be notified the day before trimming takes place.

Q: Am I required to use a RCSD recommended contractor?

No, but a contractor must first be approved by RCSD. Approval is contingent on proper licensing, scope of work submittal and the contractor understanding and complying with RCSD tree pruning guidelines.

Q: If my regular gardener is not a licensed contractor, can I still hire him to trim the parkway tree?

You can if the gardener is a D-49 – Tree Service Contractor, licensed through the State of California.

Q: My contractor is only available to trim the tree on the weekend. Can I request approval for those hours instead of weekdays?

No, pruning must be done during weekday hours to allow the District arborist to monitor pruning of the District tree.

Q: I want to have the parkway tree laced out and shaped into a ball. Why can't I have the tree trimmed the way I want it to look?

The parkway trees are public and not private trees and therefore all tree trimming must comply with District trimming standards. These standards

follow I.S.A. (International Society of Arboriculture) and ANSI (America National Standards Institute) tree pruning guidelines.

Q: I feel that the parkway tree is way too big and is a safety hazard. Can I have the tree trimmed to reduce the size?

Trimming to reduce tree size is not allowed and may do damage to the tree, causing hazardous conditions. RCSD tree pruning standards follow I.S.A. (International Society of Arboriculture) and ANSI (America National Standards Institute) tree pruning guidelines.

Q: If the contractor does not trim the tree to RCSD standards, will I still be liable for damages to the tree.

Yes, if you hired the contractor, you would be liable for damages to a District tree that resulted from tree trimming.

Q: I planted the tree or trees in my parkway, so shouldn't I be able to trim them as I please?

Under RCSD policy, property owners or residents are not allowed to plant trees in the parkways. If it was done in the past and the tree was allowed to remain, the tree becomes a District tree and not privately owned.