

Tree Removal & Replacement

Critical Areas and Emergency Tree Removals



Lake Forest Park Municipal Code 16.14.080 Environmentally critical areas and buffers.

Removal of trees in critical areas and their buffers is prohibited, except that permits may be issued in the following circumstances:

1. When trees have been determined to be any of the following under a tree risk assessment conducted in accordance with the International Society of Arboriculture Best Management Practices: Tree Risk Assessment (2013), done by a qualified arborist that is certified as a tree risk assessor, and where the risk cannot be reduced to low with mitigation such as pruning:
 - a. Moderate risk with significant consequences;
 - b. Moderate risk with severe consequences;
 - c. High risk; or
 - d. Extreme risk.
2. When trees proposed for removal are causing obvious physical damage to structures, utilities, or other infrastructure, such as building foundations, public sidewalks, roadways, or water conveyances, and the city's qualified arborist has determined that mitigation actions, such as root pruning, would not be feasible to minimize further damage.
3. When trees proposed for removal are invasive trees, as verified by the city's qualified arborist.
4. When trees proposed for removal are part of an approved action under Chapter 16.16 LFPMC.

You will need to hire someone to perform the Tree Risk Assessment. The Tree Risk Assessment shall be performed by an arborist that is both ISA certified

and Tree Risk Assessment (TRA) qualified. A list of ISA certified and TRA qualified arborists can be found at www.treesaregood.org.

Emergency tree removals:

If the tree is found to have a high or extreme risk as determined by the ISA certified and TRA qualified arborist, the tree can be removed immediately and you can follow the procedure for obtaining an emergency action tree removal permit:

Lake Forest Park Municipal Code 16.14.050 Emergency actions.

Emergency actions necessary to remedy an immediate threat to people, property, or public health, safety or welfare by a high-risk or extreme-risk tree may be undertaken without a previously issued permit. Emergency actions include measures necessary to control a fire and measures necessary to correct a forest health emergency. Any person undertaking such an action shall take the following actions:

- A. Notify the administrator within one business day following commencement of the emergency action;
- B. Complete the applicable tree removal application under LFPMC 16.14.040 within one week of the emergency action and post the application in accord with LFPMC 16.14.040(D);
- C. Tree replacement shall be required in accordance with LFPMC 16.14.070 and 16.14.090. (Ord. 1152 § 1, 2017)

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If the tree is found to have at least a moderate risk as determined by the ISA certified and TRA qualified arborist, the tree will not be able to be removed until someone applies for a major tree removal permit and the permit has been issued.

To clarify, if the risk level of the tree is moderate, high, or extreme, a major tree permit will need to be applied for. The cost for applying for a major tree permit will be a \$79.75 application fee plus the time for City Arborist review at a cost of \$95/hour. At the time of permit application, we will need to have a copy of the Tree Risk Assessment showing the determined risk level. The review timeline for a permit of this nature is usually 2-3 weeks from the time of application.

If the tree is found to have less than a moderate risk as determined by the ISA certified and TRA qualified arborist, the tree would not be allowed to be removed according to municipal code and you would therefore not have to go through the permit process.

Questions?

For more information, please contact the Planning Department
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