TREE MAINTENANCE IN ROSSMOOR



ROSSMOOR – GOLDEN RAIN FOUNDATION

TREE MAINTENANCE CONTRACTORS

WARANER BROS TREE CARE

- Responsible for tree care in all Mutuals and Trust
- Focused mostly on tree pruning and small removals
- Dedicated arborist on site at Rossmoor M-F

HAMILTON TREE SERVICE

- Responsible for tree care in all Mutuals and Trust
- Focused mostly on large tree removals

TREE INSPECTION

TREE WALKS

- Every Entry in Rossmoor is walked once a year for tree maintenance issues
- An arborist from on of our approved contractors, an MOD Landscape representative, and sometimes Landscape Representative or Director is present
- The health of each tree is observed, and the arborist gives recommendations on how each tree should be cared for based off physical appearance
- Possible solutions for tree care are pruning, watering, fertilization, fungicide application, growth regulators, etc.
- In certain cases, trees that are in obvious decline are pointed out by the arborist and removal is recommended

PRUNING

TOP PRIORITY

Safety

- Weight reduction to help prevent limb failures
- Removal of limbs that show signs of potential failure
- Broken limb removal

Building Clearance

- 3 ft from buildings and structures
- 8 ft of roofs

Road Clearance

- 14 ft over roadways
- 8 ft over sidewalks

Fire Danger

- Limbing up low hanging limbs to create at least 6 ft of clearance
- Minimal vertical clearance of 3x shrubs height below tree

PRUNING

SECONDARY PRIORITY

Health

- Pruning off deadwood
- Pruning to promote good structure for young trees

Aesthetics

- Pruning to promote blooming
- Pruning branches going straight downwards or towards the trunk

If budget permits, Secondary pruning techniques are recommended in some cases.

REMOVAL PROCESS

For trees with trunks greater than 9” in diameter 4.5’ feet above the ground

1. During tree walk, arborist recommends removal of a specific tree
2. Landscape Manager takes note of location, species, and reasoning for removal
3. Landscape Manager applies for Tree Removal Permit via the application process from the City of Walnut Creek (Costs $85 for 4 trees maximum per permit)
4. Landscape Manager creates tree removal notice to be distributed to all residents located within 300 ft of tree
5. City sends out a contracted arborist to evaluate the tree to approve tree removal. If approved, a Mutual representative approves removal estimate provided by a Rossmoor approved tree maintenance contractor
6. If tree removal is denied, an appeal letter can be submitted by the Landscape Manager
7. City of Walnut Creek Public Works Director will approve or deny appeal

REMOVAL PROCESS

CITY OF WALNUT CREEK

Tree Removal Permit Application
$85 Application Fee (Non-refundable)

For Office Use:
TR#_____

A permit is required to remove any tree, dead or alive, public or private, that is 9-inches in diameter, or 28 inches in circumference, when measured at 4 ½ feet above the natural grade.
For emergency permit information or requests please call (925) 943-5854

Allow 10 working days for a field evaluation and processing of your application

1. Property Owner: Golden Rain Foundation Mutual 4
2. Owner Address: 800 Rockview Drive, Walnut Creek, CA Zip Code 94595
3. Address of tree(s) if different from above: 1901, 1957, & 2137 Skycrest Dr, Walnut Creek, CA 94595
4. Contact Phone No. 925-988-7644
5. Email Address: jtawaststjerna@rossmoor.com
6. Indicate the number of trees you want to remove: 4 (4 tree maximum per permit)
7. Species of tree(s): Birch, (2) Monterey Pine, & Italian Stone Pine
8. Check all that apply to the tree(s)
   - [x] Unhealthy/Dead
   - [ ] Damaging adjacent structures
   - [x] Branching/Leans
   - [x] Other (describe below)

   Briefly state other reasons or comments: Birch is dying. Monterey Pines are unhealthy. Italian Stone Pine leans over roadway and doesn't have a great structure.
9. Name of H.O.A. and contact: John Tawaststjerna Phone No. 925-988-7644
10. Property owner's signature_____ Date 8/11/23

Notice to Homeowner's Associations

Sec.3-8.04 of Walnut Creek Ordinance requires that you provide the City with proof of written notice delivered to all property owners within 300 feet of any tree(s) to be removed. Notice must identify the tree(s) to be removed.

Please diagram the property in the space below showing the location of the tree(s)

Mail application and check payments to: Public Works Dept, City of Walnut Creek, 1666 North Main Street, Walnut Creek, CA 94596

For credit card payments please submit your application online at https://www.walnut-creek.org/departments/public-works/tree-removal-permit or in person at City Hall.

Rev 12/10/2019 Doc # 2528 Tree Removal Permit Application.pub

ROSSMOOR
WALNUT CREEK

8/11/23 1901 & 1957 Skycrest Dr, Walnut Creek, CA 94595

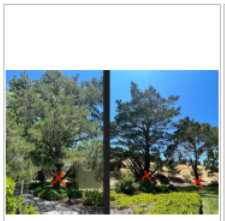
TREE REMOVAL APPLICATION NOTICE

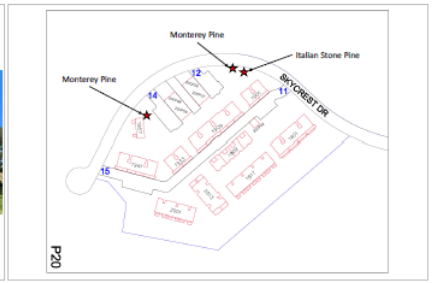
Please be advised that Mutual 4 is applying for a City of Walnut Creek tree removal permit for the following tree.

WHERE West corner of 1957 Skycrest Dr & South of 1901 Skycrest Dr

TREE TYPE(S) (2) Monterey Pine & Italian Stone Pine

WHY Trees are unhealthy and have a lean





Removal is subject to inspection by City of Walnut Creek Arborist.

If you have questions or concerns regarding this removal, please contact Landscape Department staff at 925-988-7642 or your Landscape Representative.

Tree replacement is Mutual responsibility, contact your Landscape Representative.

Thank you,

Rossmoor Landscape Management

REMOVAL PROCESS

City of Walnut Creek
TREE REMOVAL DENIAL

TR: 23200
DATE: 08/01/2023
NAME: GOLDEN RAIN FOUNDATION
ADDRESS: 5581 TERRA GRANADA DR

Your request to remove 1 ITALIAN STONE PINE tree from your property is denied. A field inspection found the tree to be in good visible health. No conditions were found that would justify removal as outlined under the Walnut Creek Preservation of Trees on Private Property Ordinance.

Inspected by:
JEREMY CAWN URBAN FORESTRY SPECIALIST
Name and Title

To appeal this decision: please follow the Appeal Procedure Guidelines below.

Level One - Tree Removal Appeal Procedure Guidelines

To appeal the denial of your tree removal request, write a letter to the Public Works Director stating the reasons why you think the denial of your tree removal should be over turned. If you have new evidence, or conditions to support your claim, please include them at this time. The Public Works Director will review your letter of appeal and either uphold or overturn the denial.

No fees are assigned at this stage of the appeal process. Please send your letter to the following address:

City of Walnut Creek
Public Works Director
1666 N. Main Street
Walnut Creek, CA 94596

You may email dutyengineer@walnut-creek.org or call (925) 943-5899 ext: 3586 for further information.

Mutual Operations Division
800 Rockview Dr.
Walnut Creek, Ca. 94595

August 4th, 2023

City of Walnut Creek
Public Services Director
1666 N. Main Street
Walnut Creek. Ca. 94596

Tree Removal Denial TR23200

This is a request to reverse the denial of removing an Italian Stone Pine tree located on the North side of 5581 Terra Granada Entry 25.

The denial removal letter states: A field inspection found the tree to be in good visible health. No conditions were found that would justify removal as outlined under the Walnut Creek Preservation of Trees on Private Property Ordinance. Please reconsider this denial because the tree is outgrowing its space and does not have a great structure. This tree poses a threat to the nearby buildings and is considered a fire danger species. Mutual 50 has been phasing out Italian Stone Pine trees for 5 years, as there are better species for this area.

John Tawaststjerna
Landscape Manager
ROSSMOOR
Golden Rain Foundation
800 Rockview Drive
Walnut Creek, CA 94595
jtawaststjerna@rossmoor.com

PROBLEM SPECIES

COLORADO BLUE SPRUCE

- Native to the Rocky Mtn Region
- During the winter storms, Rossmoor had several Blue Spruce fall
- Root system is considered relatively shallow
- The majority of Blue Spruce removed in Rossmoor have a lot of trunk decay
- Often seen planted near concrete pathways in Rossmoor and cramped into areas that are too small for a tree of this size
- Considered a fire danger species
- Recommending removal in most cases



PROBLEM SPECIES

MONTEREY PINE

- Native to Coastal Areas of California
- Attacked easily by bark beetles, especially during the past drought years
- Once trees are infected by beetles, decline happens quickly
- Trees are often susceptible to root rot
- Require constant pruning of limbs otherwise limb failures are likely
- Removal always recommended by arborists and the City of Walnut Creek



PROBLEM SPECIES

EUCALYPTUS BLUE GUM

- Native to Australia
- Considered a fire danger species
- Invasive
- Trees are often susceptible to root rot
- Require constant pruning of limbs otherwise limb failures are likely
- Removal always recommended by arborists and the City of Walnut Creek

- Other varieties of Eucalyptus (over 700 in the whole world) are also often recommended for removal for similar reasons

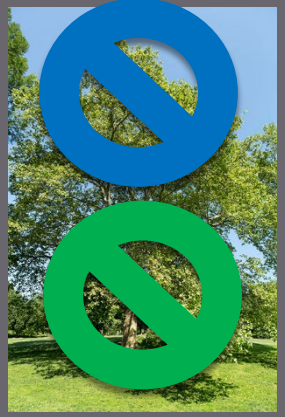


ROSSMOOR COMMON TREE SPECIES

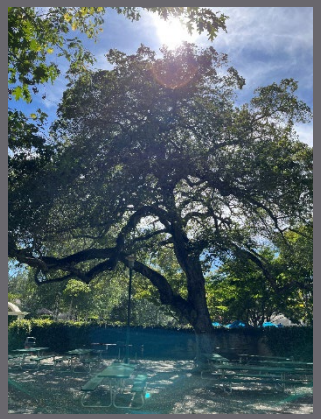
Douglas Fir



London Plane



Oak



Pine



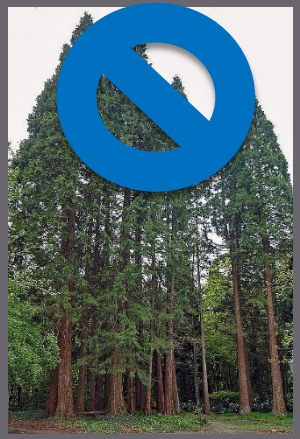
Maple



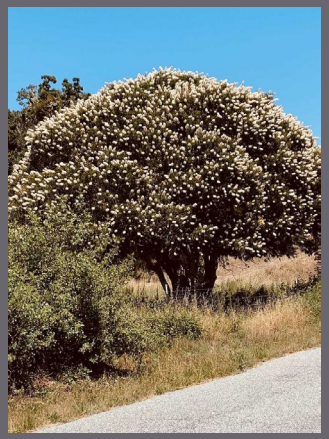
Liquidambar



Redwood



CA Buckeye



Olive



Blue Spruce



OTHER MANAGEMENT PRACTICES

FRUIT REDUCTION SPRAYING

- Some fruiting trees in Rossmoor are sprayed for fruit reduction with a product called Florel
- Examples of species are Plums, Olives, and Liquidambars
- Spray must be completed during flowering before fruit sets (Typically March)
- Costly and not always effective

FUNGICIDE SPRAYING

- Trees are susceptible to fungal attacks
- Sometimes arborists recommend fungicide applications to reduce the risk of this
- Oaks are often recommended for this practice

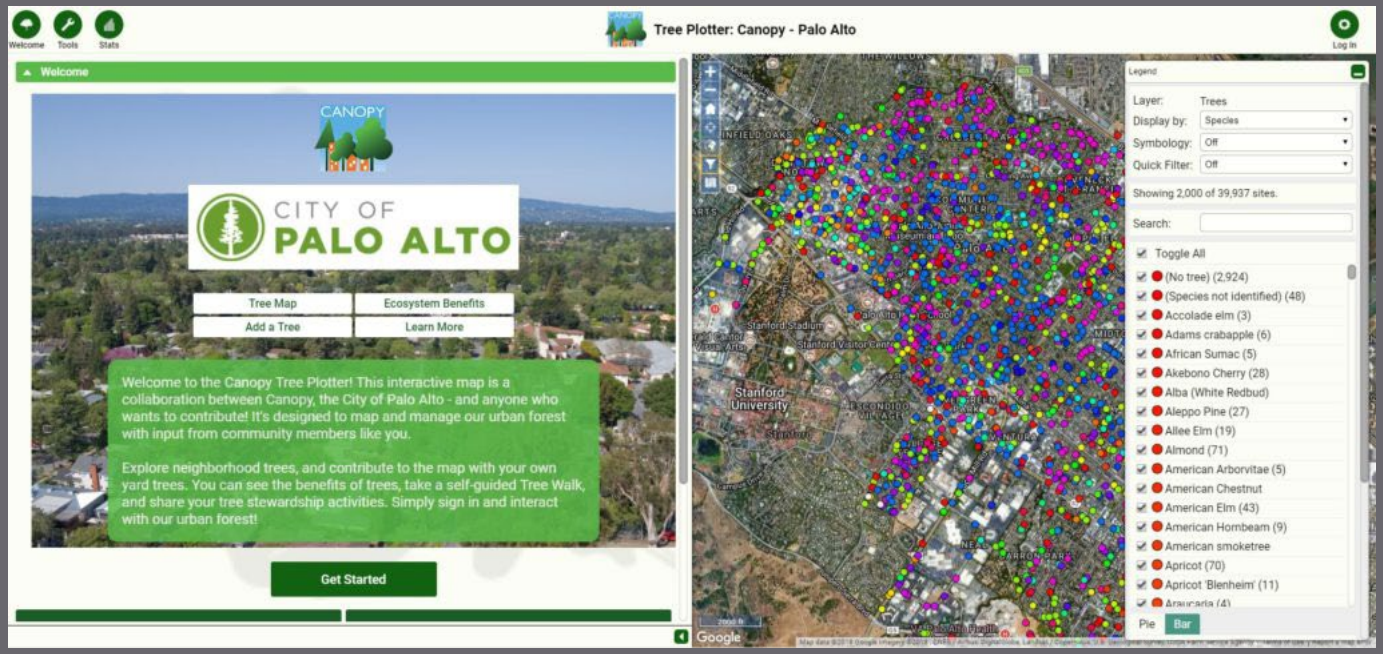
PEST CONTROL SPRAYING

- To reduce chemical applications in general, this is often not recommended in Rossmoor
- Most common application is for aphid treatment
- Only recommended if a tree has the issue for consecutive years

OTHER MANAGEMENT PRACTICES

TREE MAPPING SOFTWARE

- Other municipalities now use GIS powered tree mapping softwares
- Database would hold a complete Rossmoor tree inventory
- Landscape Dept. would update status of trees and last inspection to create an active log of tree maintenance activity
- TreePlotter is the leader in this space



OTHER MANAGEMENT PRACTICES

RESISTOGRAPH STUDIES

- For some valuable heritage trees, a resistograph study is recommended
- The study is done by using a resistance drill to measure decay
- Graphs are automatically produced at the time of testing
- Joe Mcneil, a Master Arborist, offers this service with a detailed report



