

Trees in the Urban Zones

Trimming trees

You can trim a tree without resource consent if the tree on your property is identified as a general tree (a protected tree that is not in a schedule) in the Operative District Plan or Proposed Plan Change 13. If the tree is listed in a schedule then resource consent may be required.

Working within the dripline of trees

If you are planning to carry out work within the dripline of a tree you need to determine if the tree is protected by the District Plan or Proposed Plan Change 13. Any work within the dripline of a protected tree will require a resource consent. If the tree is not protected then work within a dripline is permitted.

Tree removal

If you are planning to remove a tree you need to determine if the tree is protected by the District Plan or Proposed Plan Change 13. Removing a protected tree will require a resource consent. If the tree is not protected then removing the tree is permitted. If you find that your proposed works or development is likely to infringe one of the requirements identified above, then you will need to apply for resource consent. **There is no guarantee that resource consent will be granted.** Application forms are available online at www.papakura.govt.nz, or at the public duty planning office at the Council offices. You should also discuss your application further with the duty planner.

More information about trees

The information contained within this pamphlet is a guide.

If you have further questions about tree protection requirements in Papakura you can visit the Council website at www.papakura.govt.nz or contact the Papakura District Council duty planner.

The office contact details are:
35 Coles Crescent, Papakura
Telephone: (09) 295 2317
Fax: (09) 298 1906



Telephone: 09-295 1300 Facsimile: 09-298 1906
Email: customerservices@papakura.govt.nz
Website: www.papakura.govt.nz

Postal address

Papakura District Council
Private Bag 7, Papakura 2244

TREE TRIMMING Guidelines



Overview

Trees provide people and our environment with many benefits. They reduce air and noise pollution, release oxygen into the air, reduce soil erosion, and give us shade and protection from harsh weather.

Recent changes to the Resource Management Act mean you can now trim trees that are protected. Trees which are protected are defined in the Papakura District Plan. Until January 2012 it is still illegal to cut down “general” trees that are protected.

The District Plan protects individual and groups of listed trees and general trees throughout the district.

Tree Protection and the Resource Management Amendment Act 2009

Changes to the Resource Management Act came into effect on 1 October 2009. The changes allow for the trimming of general trees identified in a District Plan, on a reserve or subject to a conservation management plan or strategy in the urban environment. The changes will also allow for the removal of general trees in the urban environment from January 2012.

Urban environment means an allotment no greater than 4000m²

- (a) That is connected to a reticulated water supply system and a reticulated sewerage system; and
- (b) On which there is a building used for industrial or commercial purposes, or a dwellinghouse.

How do I find out if a tree on my property is protected?

In Papakura protected trees are defined in the District Plan and include:

- Any native or exotic trees in the urban and rural areas that meet criteria relating to height and trunk circumference in the Operative District Plan or Proposed Plan Change 13;
- Any tree, bush or plant in a Schedule, Site of Special Wild Life Interest or a Significant Natural Area in the Operative District Plan and Proposed Plan Change 13.

Whenever planning to trim or prune a tree please ensure you check the Papakura District Plan first. It is available online at www.papakura.govt.nz or at the Council offices, 35 Coles Crescent. If you are still unsure please talk to a duty planner at the Council.

Guidelines for tree trimming

Papakura District Council has issued guidelines to help people planning to trim trees on their properties:

- Tree trimming should not result in the death or destruction of the tree or cause irreparable damage, and should not cause a major change in the height or shape of the tree.

- Trimming should be carried out with hand-operated tools and should follow recognised arboricultural practice.

Most trees are best pruned or trimmed in winter. If in doubt, ask a qualified arborist for help or advice. Avoid trimming or pruning when birds are nesting. If you plan to do the work yourself, make sure you follow health and safety guidelines.

When is resource consent required?

The information on the reverse of this pamphlet lists when a resource consent may be required.

