Summary of the
Mill Valley Tree Regulations

Mill Valley Municipal Code Section 20.67

All measurements are taken at "breast height" (4-1/2 feet above the ground).
"Tree removal" means complete removal of a tree, any action foreseeably leading to its death or permanent damage to its health or removal of more than 1/3 of the foliage in any 12-month period.

Heritage Trees

A permit is required for removal or major pruning of Heritage Trees. The Director of Planning and Building may waive permit requirements when there is an immediate threat to the safety of persons or property. The following trees* and dimensions qualify a tree as being Heritage:

Tanbark Oak (*Lithocarpus densiflorus*):	**65 inch circumference/approx. 20 inch diameter**
Oak (*Quercus Supp.*):	**75 inch circumference/approx. 24 inch diameter**
Madrone (*Arbutus mensiesii*):	**75 inch circumference/approx. 24 inch diameter**
Coast Redwood (*Sequoia sempervirens*):	**95 inch circumference/approx. 30 inch diameter**

*any tree designated to be a Heritage Tree by resolution of the City Council

Vacant Lots

A permit is required to cut **any** tree over 12 ½ inch circumference (approx. 4 inch diameter).

Developed Lots

A permit is required to cut **4 or more** trees over 19 inch circumference (approx. 6 inch diameter), unless removal is requested in writing by the City for vegetative management purposes.

Other Trees

Certain City development approvals protect non-Heritage trees on Mill Valley sites. Please call the Planning Department if you have any questions prior to removal of a tree.

Public Trees and Shrubs located on City Property

Contact Brandon Stewart, Parks Superintendent, (415) 388-4242.

For Permit Applications Contact:

Mill Valley Planning Department
26 Corte Madera Avenue, Mill Valley CA 94941
(415) 388-4033
Also under Planning Forms & Resources at cityofmillvalley.org

Current application fees:

$76.00 Non-Heritage trees or a Heritage Tree with Sudden Oak Death
$535.00 Heritage Tree (public hearing required)

Criteria for Approval or Denial of a Tree Permit

A permit may be granted upon a finding that the tree removal is necessary to accomplish any one or more of the following objectives:

1. To protect the public health and safety by reducing or eliminating fire danger and other potential hazards to persons or property.

2. To prevent obstruction or interference with public utility facilities, sanitary sewer facilities, storm drains, or water supply facilities, or watercourses.

3. To ensure reasonable preservation of views and sunlight.

4. To enhance the health of the subject tree or adjacent trees.

5. To allow the owner to reasonably develop and use the subject property.

A tree removal permit may be denied if any one or more of the following findings is made:

1. Removal of a healthy heritage tree or multiple trees could be avoided by reasonable alternatives such as trimming, pruning, thinning, or other reasonable treatment.

2. Revisions to a proposed project would allow an owner to reasonably develop and use the subject property without requiring removal of a healthy heritage tree or multiple trees.

3. Adequate provisions for drainage, erosion control, land stability, avoiding adverse visual impacts and wind screening have not been made in situations where problems are anticipated as a result of tree removal.

Conditions of approval may be attached to any tree removal permit.

Any decision on a Tree Removal Permit application may be appealed as specified in Chapter 20.100 of the Mill Valley Municipal Code.