

Appeal for tree removal permit

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City of Sunnyvale
Community Development Department
Planning Commission
Subject: Tree Removal Permit
Permit number: 20227258

To whom it may concern,

We had applied for a tree removal permit (Permit number: 20227258) for two trees located in our front yard; one palm tree and a cedar tree and the palm tree removal was approved. The removal of the cedar tree was not approved and we are writing to appeal that decision.

There are two reasons why we are requesting you to approve the removal.

We are adding more rooms in the front mainly to make the house more safe and easily accessible for our son who is in a wheelchair. Our house today is not wheelchair friendly hence the need to make the addition. Over the years we have noticed certain issues with our walkway and driveway. The roots of the cedar tree have lifted the concrete on the walkway so much so that it is now unusable for the wheelchair. We can no longer use the front entrance for bringing our son inside the house.

With the new construction we would like to build a ramp for wheelchair use and are worried that the roots of the tree may cause similar problems and become a safety hazard. Similarly, since the addition brings the rooms closer to the tree we are also concerned as to the damage to the foundation from the roots. We want to make sure the house and the ramp are safe for our son.

Secondly, I (Shilpa Mannikar) have developed a severe allergy to the pollen released by the tree. It has developed in the past few years and has been progressively getting bad. I am currently taking medications in an effort to try to control my allergies, which sometimes work and sometimes do not. When they do not work are the days which I dread the most. I am totally incapacitated on those days with extremes of all my allergy symptoms and having difficulty breathing. We have tried to control the amount of pollen coming in by keeping windows closed etc; but with the new rooms being so near the tree, controlling the pollen from coming in will be very hard.

We understand the importance of trees and have enjoyed this tree for the past 24 years. But now it represents a safety hazard and that worries us. According to the City of Sunnyvale's Urban Forest Management Plan, even the city is decreasing the use of this particular tree as it has caused problems. Taking these reasons into consideration, we would like to appeal the tree removal permit decision for the cedar tree. We would like to request the planning commission to please approve the permit.

Thank you,
Sunil and Shilpa Mannikar