

Tree Preservation FAQ

Why was a campus-wide tree study completed?

A campus-wide tree study was completed to survey and create an inventory of trees at each school where Measure BB construction will occur.

How is the tree retention process decided?

A certified consulting arborist with 25 years of experience in tree biology conducted a detailed tree report on each campus that will undergo construction or modernization projects. The arborist made recommendations based on the condition of each tree. The District reviews the recommendations and assesses the condition of each tree to decide whether the tree will be preserved. The District is in the process of establishing a "Hall of Fame" list based upon the information received from the arborist. The "Hall of Fame" trees bear various qualities, such as, rare or mature species, historic quality, educational and wildlife value, and overall health.

What factors are considered when addressing tree retention?

Several factors are taken into consideration when deciding which trees to retain, including, physical and structural condition, trunk diameter, expected remaining lifespan, construction impact and whether or not it is suitable for preservation. Rare species, trees that are flourishing in the current landscape and trees in excellent condition will be retained or relocated during the construction process.

What qualifies a tree as having poor health?

Many different qualities will classify a tree as having poor health, including significant deadwood in the canopy of the tree, decreased growth, diminished leaf color and structural failure.

How do trees become damaged?

Many times trees have undergone root loss due to vandalism or root cutting.

How are trees maintained and cared for during the construction process?

The retained trees will be monitored throughout the duration of construction. A Tree Protection Zone Plan has been implemented, which includes measures for mulching, trench digging, general care and protective fencing around the limits of the tree. No digging, trenching, or other soil disturbances are allowed in the fenced area. Both the aboveground portion of the tree and the root system are protected.

Will new trees be planted once construction is complete?

We are committed to preserving as many trees as possible throughout the construction and modernization process. In addition to trees that are being preserved and/or relocated, a large variety of new landscaping will occur on campuses during the last phases of construction. The District is committed to increasing the amount of trees on campus once the construction project is completed.

What is the amount of trees that will increase on campus?

The amount of trees will be increased on campuses throughout the District. The average increase of new trees planted will be approximately 20%!

Why may some trees need to be removed from SMMUSD campuses?

Some tree species are not ideal for school landscape, are in poor health or in rapid decline, are growing too close together, have undergone damage or vandalism or are simply not flourishing in the landscape.

Who can I contact if I have questions?

Any questions regarding tree preservation throughout the Measure BB program can be directed to the Facility Improvement Projects Office at measurebb@smmusd.org.