



City of San Mateo Parks and Recreation
Tree Diameter Measurement Guide
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Measuring the diameter of your tree is easy and requires a few simple steps with the help of some common household materials.

Materials Needed:

Measuring Tape



Thumb Tack



String



Marker



Calculator



1. Using the measuring tape, measure 54 inches (4 ½ feet) up from the base of the tree.



2. Mark the height on the tree with a thumb tack.
3. Tie one end of the string to the thumb tack.

4. Wrap the string around the tree in an even circle, making sure it is tight and flush with the tree.



Note: If the tree has a lump, branch, or forks into multiple trunks at 54 in., wrap the string under the lump, branch or fork where the tree begins a normal circular form.

5. With the string wrapped around and held tight, use the marker to mark the string where the two ends of the string overlap.

6. Extend the string out straight and using the measuring tape, measure the string (using inches) from one end to the other (between the two marks). The measurement is the circumference of the tree. (Example: 84 inches)



7. To get the diameter, the circumference must be divided by Pi (3.14).
Ex: $84 \text{ inches} \div 3.14 = 26.7515924$

8. Round to the nearest whole number.
Ex: $26.7515924 = 27 \text{ in.}$
27 in. = Tree Diameter