

FAQ questions:

Why is this work happening now? How often do fallen trees impact BART service?

Fiscal Year 2023 (July 2022 to July 2023) had an increase in service delays due to tree failure. Tree failure derailed one train, delayed train service at least eight times, and damaged three private vehicles and two power lines. We want to get as much of this work done now as possible in anticipation of the possibility of more severe storms this winter.

How big are these trees and what makes them a potential hazard for BART?

The trees for pruning and removal range from approximately 20 to 100 feet tall. Trees have been identified by certified arborists as posing a risk to BART train operations using International Society of Arboriculture Best Management Practices for Tree Risk Assessment. Tree characteristics including form, degree of lean (and whether it was corrected), vigor, and rooting stability are evaluated in relation to the BART tracks.

What type of trees are being removed and pruned?

There are a variety of tree species being removed and pruned. The tree species that have the largest planned quantity of removal are eucalyptus and palm trees.

What steps are being taken to ensure the work is done safely?

The work is being performed in accordance with the Districts Operations, Rules, and Procedures Manual. All work is being supervised by BART safety monitors. Trees that are very close to the track will require BART to close that track for a period of time to ensure the safety of BART riders as well as workers.

Why do you have to reduce train service for some of this work?

Train service is reduced for some of the tree removal to ensure safety of both the trains and tree removal staff. Some of the trees are so close to the track that it is unsafe to run trains while removal occurs.

Is the work being done by BART staff or contractors?

The work is being done by both BART staff and contractors. BART staff is supervising all work the contractor performs with a BART safety monitor among other staff.

What happens to the trees once they're removed?

The branches of the trees are chipped directly into BART property. This serves as weed suppression and fire prevention for the corridor of land next to the BART tracks. The larger trunks are loaded into trucks and taken to municipal greenwaste recycling where it is diverted from the landfill and used locally for compost and mulch.

How will this work impact neighborhoods?

Tree removal work will occur mostly on Sundays with noise from chainsaws and chippers from 7am to 7pm.

What's a bus bridge and how will it work?

It's when buses replace regular train service in a segment of the BART system. During bus bridge weekends riders will be able to take free buses between the two stations impacted by a track shutdown. Riders can take a train to one of the stations and get off the train at the platform where they will be directed to a bus to take them to the next station so they can continue their trips. BART will deploy extra staff on shutdown weekends to help riders get where they need to go. Typical delays for areas impacted by bus bridges will be about 30 minutes.

Are bicycles allowed on the bus bridge?

Yes. Buses are all outfitted with racks to accommodate bicycles. Each bus typically has a capacity of three bicycles.