Benefits of the Urban Forest

Portland's urban forest is a valuable functional and aesthetic asset that is vital to the livability of our community. For these reasons, the City encourages tree planting, regular tree maintenance, and alternatives to tree removal except where no viable alternative exists. Trees soften and beautify the city landscape, offer habitat for wildlife, and provide essential ecosystem services such as capturing runoff, removing air pollutants and CO₂, dampening noise, and modifying temperature extremes. The regular care and maintenance required by urban trees is a small investment relative to the large returns they provide - for publicly owned trees, less than \$1 invested returns over \$3 in benefits. Trees provide increasing benefits as they grow, and mature trees are an asset that requires decades to replace.



Permit Request Checklist

- ☐ Did you review this brochure to determine the tree's eligibility for removal?
- ☐ Did you fill out a Street Tree Removal/ Replanting Permit Application completely?
- ☐ Did you submit the Street Tree Removal/ Replanting Permit Application, the \$35.00 processing fee, and supporting materials to Urban Forestry?

If you believe the tree is an imminent hazard, call (503) 823-4489 to request an emergency inspection.

To Receive More Information, Contact Us

City Nature Urban Forestry 10910 N Denver Ave. Portland, OR 97217 (503) 823-4489 phone (503) 823-4493 fax www.portlandparks.org



PORTLAND PARKS & RECREATION

Healthy Parks, Healthy Portland



www.PortlandParks.org Commissioner Nick Fish Director Zari Santner

Street Tree Removal and Replanting

- Regulations and Requirements
- Requesting a Permit
- · Replanting Protects the Urban Forest





Healthy Parks, Healthy Portland

Regulations and Requirements

Street trees (those trees growing in the right-of-way generally between the curb and sidewalk) are regulated under Chapter 20.40 of Portland's City Code. As a property owner, you play an integral role in the protection of our urban forest because you are responsible for the care and maintenance of the street trees adjacent to your property. Urban Forestry provides you with professional guidance and the permits required for street tree pruning, removal, and replanting. Failure to obtain a permit before beginning any work on a street tree is a violation of City Code.

Typically, only trees that are dead, dying, or dangerous, based on the assessment of a City Arborist, are permitted for removal. Infrastructure damage, disease or infestation, utility conflicts, or other circumstances may be factors contributing to removal depending on the tree and its location.

Conditions That May Warrant Removal:

• Tree is dead, dying, or dangerous

Some Conditions That Do Not Warrant Removal:

- Tree drops flowers, fruit, nuts, seeds, branches, and leaves
- Tree is perceived as too tall/large or obstructs view
- · Tree is percieved as making too much shade
- The cost of routine maintenance (e.g., pruning, fertilizing, treating for pests)
- Hazards that may be remedied by pruning and routine maintenance



- 1. Review the street tree removal materials (this brochure and the Street Tree Removal/Replanting Permit Application).
- 2. If you believe your street tree is a candidate for removal, complete the tree removal/replanting application and submit it along with the \$35.00 processing fee and supporting materials to Urban Forestry. Mark the tree(s) under consideration with flagging tape or ribbon.
- 3. Within 10 business days of receipt of your request, a City Arborist will review your request, conduct a site inspection, and determine if removal is permissible. In many cases, pruning is sufficient to alleviate potential hazards. In these cases, a pruning permit will be issued.
- 4. If the City Arborist determines that the tree should be removed, a removal permit will be issued. Tree and stump removal and replanting must be completed within 30 days of permit issuance. In some cases, replanting may be deferred until the following fall at the discretion of the City Arborist.
- 5. If the City Arborist determines that the tree is not a candidate for removal, the property owner may appeal his/her case to the Urban Forestry Commission.

Remember that failure to obtain a permit or to meet the conditions of the permit (e.g. failure to replant) may result in fines of up to \$1,000 per violation. If you believe the tree is an imminent hazard, call (503) 823-4489 to request an emergency inspection.



Whenever you remove a street tree, you are required to replant with one or more replacement trees so that urban forest canopy coverage is maintained. A City Arborist will help you determine proper planting locations and select appropriate tree varieties. This will ensure that each tree provides the maximum benefit for its location without requiring intensive maintenance in the future.



