



Portland Parks & Recreation Urban Forestry Programmatic Permit Portland Water Bureau

1.0 GOALS:

- 1.1 Protect, preserve, and restore the urban forest (Urban Forest Management Plan (UFMP), 2004).
- 1.2 Promote stewardship of the urban forest (UFMP, 2004).
- 1.3 Prevent cumulative adverse impacts to the urban forest and ensure that there is no reduction in tree canopy coverage over time (Title 11.45).
- 1.4 Allow for appropriate management of trees during Portland Water Bureau routine maintenance activities.

2.0 TERMS AND TIMELINE OF PERMIT:

- 2.1 **Permit duration is from the date of final signature through September 30, 2020.**
The permit must be signed and in effect before tree work is conducted.
- 2.2 Portland Water Bureau is the responsible party for all activities in this permit and shall ensure all staff and contractors comply with the terms and conditions of this permit.
- 2.3 This permit applies only to tree management activities not related to site development or development projects. Separate permits are required for tree activities related to development.
- 2.4 This permit is issued under the authority of the City Forester in compliance with the requirements of City of Portland [Title 11 Trees](#).

3.0 SCOPE OF WORK:

- 3.1 Activities shall prevent cumulative adverse impacts to the urban forest and ensure no net reduction in tree canopy coverage over time.

Urban Forestry

1900 SW 4th Ave, Suite 5000
Portland, OR 97201
Tel: (503) 823-TREE (8733) Fax: (503) 823-4493

Administration

1120 S.W. 5th Ave., Suite 1302
Portland, OR 97204
Tel: (503) 823-7529 Fax: (503) 823-6007

Portland Trees – www.Portlandoregon.gov/trees - permits, tree removal, report a downed tree.

Sustaining a healthy park and recreation system to make Portland a great place to live, work and play.
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3.2 Activities shall support the [2004 Urban Forest Management Plan](#).

3.3 Location

Permit activity may occur in City of Portland rights-of-way and on Portland Water Bureau property.

3.4 Definitions

- a. City trees: Trees located on City-owned property
- b. Street trees: Trees located in the City right-of-way

3.5 Pruning

- a. Portland Water Bureau staff may prune street trees and trees on Portland Water Bureau property (City trees) for the following reasons:
 - to provide clearance to meet code requirements or allow for truck or equipment passage;
 - to abate a hazard; and
 - to restore health, form, and function to trees accidentally damaged by construction activities.
- b. Pruning activities may include crown raising, crown cleaning, and crown restoration as specified in the City of Portland’s PP&R Urban Forestry [Street Tree Pruning Standards](#).
 - i. Crown raising removes the lower branches of a tree in order to provide clearance for vehicles, pedestrians, and buildings. Clearance standards are 7.5 feet above the sidewalk, 11 feet above residential streets, and 14 feet above main arterial streets.
 - ii. Crown cleaning is the removal of water sprouts and dead, dying, diseased, crowded, weakly attached, and low vigor branches from a trees’ crown.
 - iii. Crown restoration is used to improve the structure, form, and appearance of trees after being broken.
- c. Pruning shall be made with proper pruning cuts and sharp tools. City tree pruning activities shall adhere to American National Standards Institute (ANSI) *A300 Pruning Standard – Part 1*, and International Society of Arboriculture *Best Management Practices: Tree Pruning*, including any amendments or revisions. Street tree pruning activities shall adhere to the City of Portland’s *Street Tree Pruning Standards* (Appendix A).
 - i. All persons conducting this work shall have the training, experience, and equipment necessary to conduct the pruning work in a controlled and safe manner.
 - ii. For trees pruned, no more than 25% of the crown shall be removed within an annual growing season.
 - iii. When pruning from the ground, care shall be taken to avoid cutting the trunk above the cut.

- iv. Trees shall not be topped.
- d. Elm pruning requirements
In order to limit the spread of Dutch elm disease and comply with Oregon’s state quarantine of elm wood, the following rules apply to the pruning of elm trees (*Ulmus* spp.):
 - i. Elm trees shall not be pruned from April 15 through October 15 annually, except to abate a hazard.
 - ii. Pruning tools shall be treated with disinfectant before and after pruning individual elm trees.
 - iii. All wood waste shall be chipped or taken to an approved commercial disposal site within 24 hours of cutting.
- e. Staff shall identify themselves to the public as Portland Water Bureau employees while conducting pruning activities on street or City trees, either by wearing an article of clothing with the Portland Water Bureau logo or parking a Water Bureau vehicle on the block where the pruning activities are occurring.

3.6 Training

- a. Portland Water Bureau staff who conduct routine tree pruning activities shall attend a pruning training workshop put on by Urban Forestry at least once during the permit timeframe.

4.0 COMMUNICATION:

- 4.1 Portland Water Bureau shall maintain accurate permit contact information with Urban Forestry.

4.2 Portland Water Bureau contact and representative

Rich Rice, Parks Maintenance Supervisor
Mailing address: 1900 N. Interstate Ave., Portland, OR 97227
Phone: 503-823-8740
Email: rich.rice@portlandoregon.gov

5.0 QUALITY CONTROL AND REPORTING:

5.1 Reporting

A report describing permit activities shall be sent to Urban Forestry once per fiscal year for the duration of the permit on a form provided by Urban Forestry (Appendix B). The report shall be received no later than one month after the reporting period. Failure to submit reports may result in suspension of current programmatic permit or delayed issuance of future programmatic permits until the report is submitted.

- a. Reporting periods:

July 1, 2017 – June 30, 2018 report due by: August 1, 2018
July 1, 2018 – June 30, 2019 report due by: August 1, 2019
July 1, 2019 – June 30, 2020 report due by: August 1, 2020

5.2 Inspections

Urban Forestry may inspect the trees to determine compliance with the conditions of the permit.

5.3 Compliance

It is the permit holder's responsibility to adhere to the terms of the permit. If the terms of the permit are not met, the permit holder shall be notified of the violation in writing and informed of the actions necessary to correct the violation(s). If the corrective actions are not undertaken within the specified timeframe, Urban Forestry may impose any or all of the following actions until the violation is corrected:

- Temporary stop work order
- Revocation of the Programmatic Permit
- Denial of future Programmatic Permits
- Additional conditions imposed upon the activities permitted by the Programmatic Permit
- Enforcement penalties
- Civil penalties up to \$1000 per tree per day of violation
- Restoration fees imposed for trees found in violation.

a. Fees shall follow the adopted Title 11 fee schedule at www.portlandoregon.gov/trees/fees.

5.4 Revisions

Urban Forestry may modify the specifications of the permit in order to respond to concerns, changes in regulations, or previously unforeseen issues. The permittee shall be notified at least 3 weeks in advance in writing of the intent to modify the permit and shall be provided an opportunity to comment on the proposed changes. The permittee shall also have an opportunity to appeal the permit if changes are made. Changes shall not go into effect until the permit is updated in writing.

6.0 RESOURCES:

ANSI A300 (Part 1)-2008 Pruning: Tree Care Operations: Tree, Shrub, and Other Woody Plant Management: Standard Practices (Pruning). Revision of ANSI A300 (Part 1)-2001. 2008. American National Standards Institute, Washington, DC.

Gilman, Edward and Sharon Lilly. *Best Management Practices: Tree Pruning, Second Edition*. 2008. International Society of Arboriculture, Champaign, IL.

Street Tree Pruning Standards. 2014. City of Portland, Portland Parks & Recreation Urban Forestry, Portland, OR.

7.0 APPENDICES:

Appendix A – City of Portland *Street Tree Pruning Standards*

Appendix B – Reporting template

8.0 SIGNATURE:

By:  _____ Date: 7-1-2017

City Forester

Portland Water Bureau Programmatic Permit
Appendix A



PORTLAND PARKS & RECREATION

Healthy Parks, Healthy Portland

City of Portland

PP&R Urban Forestry Street Tree Pruning Standards

Portland Parks & Recreation Urban Forestry issues permits for all street tree pruning work within the City of Portland under the guidance of City Code Title 11 Trees. This document contains pruning standards to inform residents, contractors, business owners, city staff, and others of acceptable street tree pruning activities.

Foundation for the Standards

City of Portland pruning standards generally reflect industry standards and acceptable best management practices for pruning as published in the *American National Standards Institute (ANSI) A300 Pruning Standards* and *International Society of Arboriculture Best Management Practices: Tree Pruning*. In some cases the City of Portland standards are more restrictive than those in the publications above, given the City's goals of optimizing and enhancing the urban forest. This document provides standards specific to street tree work within the City of Portland. Educational information on pruning can also be found in the Portland Parks & Recreation brochure "Pruning and Care of Young and Mature Trees."

Tree Pruning Specifications

The word "shall" indicates that a practice is mandatory. The word "should" refers to a practice that is highly recommended. The purpose of pruning is to develop and preserve tree structure, health, and the final appearance of the tree(s). Any person pruning a street tree shall do so in an appropriate manner, in order to maintain a tree form typical of the species or cultivar of the tree being pruned.

Pruning permit process

Any person intending to perform work on street trees must first obtain a Street Tree Pruning Permit from the City of Portland by submitting a permit application to Portland Parks & Recreation's Urban Forestry Division. Only an owner of the property abutting the street tree, or the owner's designee, may apply for a Street Tree Pruning Permit.

City Nature - Urban Forestry Division
1900 SW 4th Ave., Suite 5000
Portland, OR 97201
Tel: (503) 823-8733 Fax: (503) 823-4493

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1120 S.W. 5th Ave., Suite 1302
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There is no fee for a permit to prune street trees. All work sites are subject to inspection before, during, and after work is completed.

Types of pruning

Pruning should only be done with a specific objective. To meet the objective(s) identified for a tree, one or more of the following types of pruning may be permitted by PP&R Urban Forestry: crown cleaning, crown raising, crown restoration, and young tree training. Each of these pruning types is described in further detail in *ANSI A300 Standards* and *Best Management Practices: Tree Pruning*. It is the responsibility of the person conducting the work to be familiar with each type of pruning, its benefits, and its limitations. Street Tree Pruning Permits will indicate one or more of the following types of pruning allowed under an individual permit:

- **Crown cleaning** is the removal of water sprouts and dead, dying, diseased, crowded, weakly attached, and low vigor branches from a tree's crown.
- **Crown raising** removes the lower branches of a tree in order to provide clearance for vehicles, pedestrians, and buildings. The City of Portland requires maintaining clearance standards 7½ feet above the sidewalk, 11 feet above residential streets, and 14 feet above main arterial streets.
- **Crown restoration** is used to improve the structure, form, and appearance of trees that have sprouted vigorously after being broken, topped, or severely pruned using heading cuts. Crown restoration may require several prunings over a number of years as new dominant branches take time to form.
- **Young tree pruning:** Young trees should be pruned to develop good structure, including a strong and well established central leader, strong branch attachments, and adequate spacing and distribution of scaffold branches. Young tree pruning will need to occur on an ongoing basis over the first ten years after tree planting.

A Street Tree Pruning permit may also allow additional specific activities outside of the above pruning types. In such cases, the allowed activity will be specifically noted on the permit. If not included on the permit, the activity is not allowed.

Additional activities may include:

- **Weight reduction:** In order to reduce the likelihood of limb or trunk failure, proper pruning cuts at the end of limbs are used to reduce the weight of a limb.
- **Clear infrastructure:** Pruning to clear street light poles, buildings, stop signs, and other infrastructure.
- **Remove defective part:** Pruning to remove a specific defect.

Pruning cuts

- The three-cut approach to pruning, as described in the Portland Parks & Recreation brochure “Pruning and Care of Young and Mature Trees,” shall be used to prevent tearing of the bark and vascular tissue.
- Branches shall be pruned at the branch collar or a lateral branch. Internodal pruning and leaving branch stubs are not permitted. Flush cuts are not permitted.
- Lions tailing is not permitted. Lions tailing is the improper practice of removing all or most secondary and tertiary branches from the interior portion of the crown, leaving most live foliage at the edge of the canopy.
- Topping is not an acceptable pruning practice and is prohibited. Topping is the reduction of a tree’s size using heading cuts that shorten limbs or branches to a predetermined crown limit.

Amount of pruning

- No more than 25% of the crown shall be removed within an annual growing season.

Tools and equipment

- Pruning tools shall be sharp and appropriately sized for the pruning cut.
- Equipment that will damage the bark and cambium layer shall not be used on or in any tree.
- Spikes or climbing spurs shall not be used for climbing trees during pruning operations.

Elm pruning requirements

In order to limit the spread of Dutch elm disease and comply with Oregon’s state quarantine of elm wood, the following rules apply to the pruning of elm trees (*Ulmus* spp.):

- Elm trees shall not be pruned from April 15 through October 15 annually.
- Pruning tools shall be treated with a disinfectant before and after pruning individual elm trees.
- All wood waste shall be chipped or taken to an approved commercial disposal site within 24 hours of cutting.

Resources

ANSI A300 (Part 1)-2001 Pruning: Tree Care Operations - Tree, Shrub and Other Woody Plant Maintenance - Standard Practices (revision and redesignation of ANSI A300-1995, includes supplements). American National Standards Institute, Washington, DC.

ANSI Z133.1–2006. Standards for Arboricultural Operations: Safety Requirements. American National Standards Institute, Washington, DC.

Best Management Practices: Tree Pruning. 2002. Gilman, E. and S. Lilly. International Society of Arboriculture. Champaign, Il.

Portland Parks & Recreation. Pruning and Care of Young and Mature Trees brochure. <http://www.portlandonline.com/parks/index.cfm?c=39712&a=179897>

Ver. 12/3/2014

Portland Water Bureau Programmatic Permit
Appendix B

