

PAVE THE WAY TO A SAFE NEIGHBORHOOD



A GUIDE TO NUISANCE TREES



THE REASONS

While green spaces provide a variety of environmental, economic, and health benefits; trees affected with disease or weakened by climatic factors can become unpredictable. Thus, to protect both our land and community, it is important for landowners to control and abate trees that pose a hazard to the community.

The following is declared a nuisance by **Chapter 6-2: Tree Management: Nuisance, Disease, and Insect Control:**

- living or dead elm with Dutch Elm Disease
- dead elm material (logs, branches, stumps)
- living or dead oak tree with Oak Wilt Fungus
- living or dead ash material infected with Emerald Ash Borer that can affect public property and is unsuitable for treatment
- any tree creating a public hazard
- any standing dead trees or brush

Transporting Firewood

No person shall transport within the city any elm wood, EAB-infested ash, or oak wilt-infested bark without having obtained a permit.



THE RULES

Property Owner Responsibility

Sick or dead trees can become unstable and encourage the spread of disease to other city trees. Thus, dead trees located anywhere in the city are to be removed. Property owners are responsible for maintaining vegetation and treating or removing trees on private property that pose a direct hazard to the public. It is important to note that the land between the street and sidewalk (boulevard) is public property. Property owners are also responsible to maintain vegetation on boulevards with exception to trees.

City Responsibility

All trees located in public boulevard are managed by the City of Rochester. Moreover, park commissioners, officers, and employees of the parks and rec department are authorized and responsible for public safety. If a private tree poses a threat, they are authorized to enter private property to conduct further inspection and enact necessary action to abate the issue.

Dial **328-2515** to report a tree that is dead or suspected to have a disease.



THE PROCESS

- Property owner is notified in writing, by mail, or in person of condition.
- Tree removal will occur in manner determined by the city if nuisance is **not abated** within outlined timeline.
- Removal cost from lowest bidder (licenced tree care company approved by the city) and a \$37.50 administrative free will be billed to property owner.
- Fee will be collected and returned in the same manner as other city taxes.



WHAT IS IT?

- **Emerald Ash Borer:** EAB is an asian beetle that directly feeds on tree xylem and phloem (nutrient-transport tissue) eventually causing death of the ash tree.
- **Dutch Elm Disease:** the fungus Ophiostoma spreads via bark beetles. Elm trees react by plugging their xylem and phloem which eventually leads to their death.
- **Oak Wilt:** the fungus Bretziella fagacearum works similar to DED: the fungus tricks the tree into plugging its nutrient-transport tissues which eventually causes its demise.
- **Standing Dead:** trees can die from a variety of factors including extreme weather, disease, human/machine damage, improper soil drainage, and more. Dead trees are unpredictable with weaker wood that can crack easily, posing a safety hazard to the public.



QUESTIONS?

- Visit: www.rochestermn.gov/departments/parks-and-recreation/forestry to learn more about planting, natural landscape, and boulevard tree work permits.
- **Sick tree?**
For Public: 328-2515
For Private: visit our website or call a licenced tree care company (unless it poses a threat to the public)

REPORT AN ISSUE

Dial **328-2515** to report concerns about trees, tall grass and weeds taller than 12 inches, and other obstructive vegetation

MORE QUESTIONS?

Trees benefit our economy, health, and environment!

Visit our website for information on signs and symptoms, treatment, and our licenced tree care company contact list:
www.rochestermn.gov/departments/parks-and-recreation/forestry



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