



ROCHESTER PARK AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT

TREE REMOVAL POLICIES

The Park and Recreation Department is responsible to remove all condemned boulevard trees except for trees affected by a street improvement contract.

Boulevard and park trees shall be condemned for removal when they are determined to be a public nuisance and safety hazard. Removal of stumps shall also be performed by the Park and Recreation Department.

If a property owner has a permit for a driveway construction project and a boulevard tree exists within the alignment, then the Park and Recreation Department shall remove the tree at city cost.

The Park and Recreation Department does not remove trees because roots are in sewer lines. Trees will also not be removed because of leaf removal problems or be removed from city property because of shading on turf, flowers, solar panels or homes.

If curbs and/or sidewalks have to be replaced because of heaving by tree roots, a tree shall only be removed if it is estimated by the city that heaving will again occur in the near future. Trees may also be removed if it is determined that a large portion of the supporting root structure has to be removed for sidewalk replacement. All root pruning for replacement work shall be the responsibility of the contractor or property owner.

TREE TRIMMING POLICIES

An objective of the tree program is to maintain all park and boulevard trees in a condition such that they do not present a safety hazard because of rotten or broken branches. This requires periodic trimming of all trees on no more than a five year rotation.

Generally all requests for trimming are scheduled for immediate attention of a hazardous condition exists to people or property. However, for other miscellaneous types of requests; e.g. shaping or removal of small dead branches, action is delayed until the trees would be trimmed in the scheduled rotation cycle. This results in a more efficient tree maintenance program because the crew minimizes travel and set-up time. If all trimming requests received immediate action, other problems would be created when the crew left the work sites as the neighbors would "expect their trees to be trimmed also."

Boulevard trees are trimmed to maintain minimum clearances of: 14' vertical clearance on designated truck routes, 12' on residential streets, and 8' vertical clearance along sidewalks for pedestrians. Trimming must also be performed to maintain visibility of traffic control signs and lights. Private property trees are trimmed to these standards after permission is received from the property owner.

All trimming shall be performed in a manner to maintain the natural shape of the tree as characteristic for the species. Topping, dehorning or polarding is not a recommended practice. This is generally prohibited except where a conflict with utility lines exist. Line clearing trimming around high voltage electrical lines shall be done by the Public Utilities Department.

All tree trimming costs incurred for house moving projects shall be paid for by the moving permit holder.