



Oregon City Street Tree Planting and Removal Guide



Street trees are part of our public infrastructure in Oregon City. They provide shade, traffic calming, stormwater management, and add value and character in our neighborhoods. Yet, street trees have a can tough time when growing spaces are small, especially without proper care and maintenance . If you need to remove a street tree, please first obtain a no-fee [removal permit](#). Here’s how it works:

How many replacement trees do I need?

One replacement tree is needed if the tree is dead, diseased, or hazardous. A tree that is causing sidewalk damage or raising sidewalks more than ¼” is considered hazardous. If the sidewalk in front of your property is raised, sidewalk repairs may be needed. Contact Public Works at **503.657.0891** for assistance and for a right-of-way permit.

The City requires a photo of the tree and sidewalk hazard and/or a letter from a certified arborist stating that the tree you would like to remove is dead, diseased or hazardous.

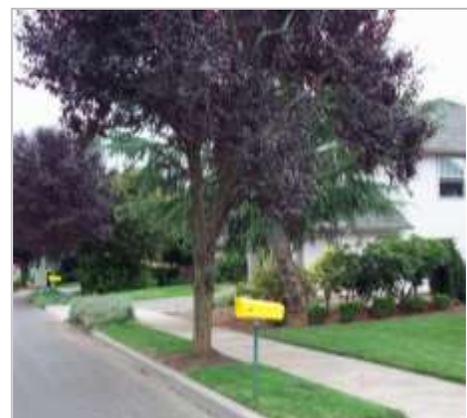
Multiple replacement trees may be needed for removal of healthy and non-hazardous trees.

For Trees <u>Not</u> Determined to be Dead, Diseased or Hazardous by a Certified Arborist	
Diameter of tree to be Removed (Inches of diameter at 4-ft height)	Number of Replacement Trees to be Planted
Less than 6”	1 Tree
6” to 12”	2 Trees
13” to 18”	3 Trees
19” to 24”	4 Trees
25” to 30”	5 Trees
31” and over	8 Trees

Where do I plant my replacement tree?

To locate underground utilities before digging, call **503.246.6699**. Please assure that replacement tree(s) are not planted within:

- Fifteen feet from streetlights
- Five feet from fire hydrants
- Five feet from water meters
- Twenty feet from intersections



Do I have options other than re-planting?

Replacement tree(s) should be planted within the public right-of-way in front of your home – most of the time, this is in your planting strip. If there are conflicts with utility lines, street lights, intersections, or fire hydrants, the Planning Division may alternatively approve:

- Replacement with a tree in another public location
- Replacement with a new or existing tree in your yard, provided it is within 10 feet of the right of way and at least 1.5" caliper. You are required to record a covenant with the Clackamas County Recorder to designate the tree as a public tree.
- Fee-in-lieu of planting that the City will use to plant trees elsewhere in our community (see current fee schedule for amount)



Narrow planter strips create challenging conditions for trees

Which species can I plant?

- **Use the Street Tree List.** Trees should be appropriate for the planting location. The City provides a Street Tree Planting List which helps avoid unnecessary damage due to root growth that may lift or cause damage to the adjacent sidewalk. Find the [detailed list](#) at www.orcity.org.
- **Use another city's list.** The City will also approve species from an adjacent municipality's approved lists (e.g. Portland or Gresham) provided the list clearly specifies the minimum planter strip width.
- **Get a letter from an arborist.** You may plant a tree species which is not listed on the Street Tree Planting List, if a letter from a certified arborist is submitted to the City specifying an alternate species that will not damage any nearby curbs or sidewalks when the tree is fully grown.

The replacement tree(s) must be a minimum of 1.5-inches in diameter measured 6 inches above the root crown and installed to City specifications.

How do I get a tree removal permit?

Once you know the species and location of the replacement tree(s) please submit the following to the Planning Division for a no-fee permit:

- A completed [street tree removal application form](#)
- A map of your property identifying the tree to be removed
- A map of the proposed location where the replacement tree(s) are to be planted
- Letter from a certified arborist and a photo (if applicable)

Once you receive your tree removal permit, you may remove the existing tree and replant by the deadline on the permit form. The permit provides surety to you and your neighbors that your street tree removal was authorized. Keep in mind that the best time of year to plant is October through April. Last but not least, be sure to maintain your tree to keep it healthy. Young trees need to be watered with about 10 gallons (two big buckets) once a week during the summer.

Thank you for doing your part to make Oregon City a Tree City USA!