

## STREET TREE REMOVAL CRITERIA

(Revised 11/04)

The City of Vancouver's policy on the removal of street trees consists of the following:

A street tree removal permit will be granted when the adjacent property owner has sufficiently demonstrated that the continuing presence of the tree outweighs the public benefit provided by the tree. Trees that are determined to be dead, "hazards" or "inappropriate species" as designated by the City are automatic candidates for removal.

The following factors shall not be considered as criteria for removal of a street tree:

- A. Obstruction of view
- B. Potential future costs to public infrastructure or private property which can be avoided by root pruning and root barriers
- C. The cost of routine tree maintenance (pruning, watering, fertilizing, spraying, if necessary)
- D. Normal maintenance activities such as the raking of leaves and flowers and annual cleaning of gutters
- E. Hazards that can be controlled or eliminated through appropriate pruning or maintenance

Definitions:

"Hazard tree" is any tree with a combination of structural defect and/or disease, which makes it subject to a high probability of failure, and is in proximity to persons or property making it an imminent threat. Hazard tree evaluation standards are established by the International Society of Arboriculture and are used by the City to determine this designation.

"Inappropriate Species" are the types and species of trees that are in the Street Tree Ordinance as prohibited trees or are determined as such by the Urban Forester.

### Procedure for removal of trees and shrubs in right of way

The adjacent property owner shall provide the following information in

- Property address;
- Number of trees in question, size of tree (diameter at 4.5 ft from ground) and species (if known);
- Description of how the tree fits the criteria for removal;
- A tree planting scheme for replacements (what, where and when). The minimum size of a replacement tree is 2" in caliper unless approved by the City Forester. Suggestions on species and location are available by the Urban Forestry Program, and can be determined at time of inspection.

The removal request shall be in the form of a letter to the City and sent to:

**Vancouver Urban Forestry**  
**P.O. Box 1995**  
**Vancouver, WA 98668**  
**360/619-1128**  
**urbanforestry@ci.vancouver.wa.us**

(over)

Upon approval of the removal, the applicant shall obtain the street tree removal permit at the Citizens Service Center, 1313 Main Street for a fee of \$5 (per address, per request). The permit is valid for 60 days and the applicant should notify Urban Forestry upon completion of work.

As per ordinance (VMC 12.04.060) the stumps and roots of trees or shrubs shall be removed to a point at least one foot below the top of the adjacent curb or proposed curb grade.

**CALL BEFORE YOU DIG!!!** 360/696-4848 (Allow 48 hours prior to digging)

The City may permit a street to be blocked for a short period of time where suitable detours can be arranged and the public will not be unnecessarily inconvenienced. Contact Permit Counter for details.