

TITLE VI PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT

CHAPTER 8 PLANTING AND CARING FOR TREES

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6-8-1 PURPOSE. The purpose of this ordinance is to beautify and preserve the appearance of the city by requiring street trees to be uniformly located and maintained. The primary responsibility for maintaining street trees is placed upon the abutting property owner or his agent, but the Superintendent of Public Works shall personally supervise any cutting or trimming of said trees.

6-8-2 DEFINITIONS. For use in this ordinance, the following terms are defined:

1. The term “person” shall mean individual, firm, corporation, trust, association, or any other organized group.
2. The term “street” shall mean the entire width between property lines of avenues or highways.
3. The term “parking” shall mean that part of the street, avenue, or highway in the city not covered by sidewalk and lying between the lot line and the curb line; or on unpaved streets, that part of the street, avenue, or highway lying between the lot line and that portion of the street usually traveled by vehicular traffic.
4. The term “property owner” shall mean a person owning private property in the city as shown by the county auditor’s plats of the city.
5. The term “public property” shall mean any and all property located within the confines of the city and owned by the city or held in the name of the city by any of the departments, commissions, or agencies within the city government.

6-8-3 ARBORICULTURAL SPECIFICATIONS AND STANDARDS OF PRACTICE.

1. Spacing. All trees hereafter planted in any street shall be planted midway between the outer line of the sidewalk and the curb. In the event a curb line is not established, trees shall be planted on a line four (4) feet from the property line.
2. Planting.
 - a. Size. All trees planted in the streets shall be of sufficient size to warrant satisfactory results and stand the abuse common to street trees.
 - b. Grade. Unless otherwise allowed for substantial reasons, all standard sized trees shall have comparatively straight trunks, well-developed leaders, and top and root characteristics of the species or variety showing evidence of proper nursery pruning. All trees must be free of insect disease, mechanical injuries, and other objectionable features at the time of planting. To compensate for any serious loss of roots, the top of the tree should be reduced by thinning or cutting back as

determined by the growth characteristics of the tree species. The leader shall not be cut off in such tree trimming.

- c. Planting. Trees shall not be planted on the parking if it is less than nine (9) feet in width, or contains less than eighty-one (81) square feet of exposed soil surface. Trees shall not be planted closer than twenty (20) feet to street intersections (property lines extended) and ten (10) feet to driveways. If it is at all possible, trees should be planted inside property lines and not between the sidewalk and the curb.
- d. Method of support. Trees may be guyed and supported in an upright position according to accepted arboricultural practices. The guys of supports shall be fastened in such a way that they will not girdle or cause serious injury to the trees or endanger public safety.

3. Trimming or pruning.

- a. All cuts are to be made sufficiently close to the parent stem so that healing can readily start under normal conditions.
- b. All dead and diseased wood shall be removed.
- c. All limbs one inch in diameter or more must be pre-cut to prevent splitting. All branches in danger of injuring the tree in falling shall be lowered by ropes.
- d. A crossed or rubbing branch shall be removed where practicable, but removal shall not leave large holes in the general outlines of the tree. Crossed or rubbing branches may be cables apart.
- e. All cuts, old or new, one inch in diameter or more, shall be painted with an approved tree wound dressing. On old wounds care shall be taken to paint exposed wood only.
- f. Where there is a known danger of transmitting disease by tools, said tools shall be disinfected with alcohol before use on another tree.
- g. Improperly healed scars, where callous growth is not established, are to be traced and painted, unless the Superintendent of Public Works designates other treatment.
- h. No topping or dehorning of trees shall be permitted except by special written permission of the Superintendent of Public Works. Trees becoming stag-headed may have the dead portions removed back to sound green wood, a proper forty-five (45) degree cut only.
- i. Elm wood trimmed, pruned or removed shall not be used for any purpose, but shall be disposed of immediately by burning or burying.

6-8-4 REMOVAL OF TREES. The Superintendent of Public Works shall remove, on the order of the council, any tree on the streets of this municipality which interferes with the making of improvements or

with travel thereon. He shall additionally remove any trees on the street, not on private property, which have become diseased, or which constitutes a danger to the public, or which may otherwise be declared a nuisance.

6-8-5 DUTY TO TRIM TREES. The owner or agent of the abutting property shall keep the trees on, or overhanging, the street trimmed so that all branches will be at least thirteen (13) feet above the surface of the street and nine (9) feet above the sidewalks.

6-8-6 TRIMMING OF TREES UNDER SUPERVISION OF SUPERINTENDENT OF PUBLIC WORKS. Except as allowed in Section 4, no person may trim or cut any tree in a street or public place unless the work is done under the personal supervision of the Superintendent of Public Works.