

Treeways

2021 - 1

Smart Tree Removal

Most of the time if you want to remove a tree the answer is yes. However, a discussion with the City Forester is in order especially if the tree is 6" or more in diameter or is within the setback area of your property.

There are many **reasons to remove** a tree. There are also many **reasons not to remove** a tree. The City has guidelines specifying size and species and number and location and timeframe for tree removals. A quick consultation with the City Forester can help you sort through these and other tree or environmental questions.

First the really simple parts, dead trees and invasive species such as buckthorn may be removed whenever you want to. On the other hand, standing dead trees harbor the insects that the largest local woodpecker eats (pileated woodpecker). No food no really big woodpeckers.

A tree that is compromised due to decay or breakage that renders it a safety concern is an easy removal decision. A tree infected with oak wilt should be removed while protecting nearby oaks from oak wilt at the same time. A tree infected with Dutch elm disease or emerald ash borer may be removed, however the City does not require it to be removed unless it is a safety concern for public streets, trails or ROW's.

Sometimes a tree may be blocking a preferred view either to the lake or across the meadow. While removing this tree may give you the view you want, it is also good to consider **Vista Pruning**. Vista Pruning means pruning out selected branches to achieve the desired view while saving the tree and the wooded character of your landscape. Saving the tree by doing **vista pruning** can get you a view of the lake plus screen the sight of the house across the lake.

A short discussion on the front end goes a long way toward getting tree removal approval and could potentially save you time, money and unhappy neighbors. A document "Tree and Vegetation Removal Guide" is available on the City website.