



## TREE PRUNING SPECIFICATIONS

### **TREE PRUNING SPECIFICATIONS FOR ALL PERSONS PERFORMING TREE PRUNING OR REMOVALS ON PUBLIC RIGHTS OF WAY AND FOR LICENSED TREE SERVICES PERFORMING WORK ON PUBLIC OR PRIVATE PROPERTY:**

*Tree pruning shall consist of the removal of dead, dying, diseased, interfering, objectionable and weak branches on the main trunks as well as those leaders within the leaf area. In addition, tree-pruning specifications include the following requirements:*

- The removal of all dead and dying branches, except for an occasional branch up to (2") inch in diameter in the main leaf area or crown, where it is not practical to remove;
- Removal of all broken branches or loose branches lodged in the tree
- Removal of all dead and live stubs, broken or poorly cut limbs;
- Removal of live branches which interfere with the trees structural strength and healthy development, which would include the following:

Limbs, which rub or abrade a more important branch;

Limbs with weak structure, which are not important to the structural framework of the tree, such as rotten limbs. (Cavities in use by wildlife can be left if the thickness of the sound wood surrounding the cavity is equal to at least 1/3 the diameter of the limb.)

Limbs with twigs and foliage obstructing the development of more important branches;

Limbs or main leaders forming multiple leaders;

Heavy foliage branches near the end of a limb, which will produce more weight or offer more resistance to wind, snow or other climatic factors than the limbs likely to support;

Undesirable sprout or sucker growth from the ground to a height of 20 feet;

Removal to one or more developing leaders where multiple sucker or branch regrowth exists near the end of broken or stubbed limbs;

Removal or pruning of limbs or foliage off or away from all traffic signs or warning lights;

Removal or pruning of limbs and foliage above public rights of way (vehicular road surfaces or sidewalks) which rub, abrade or block the vision or movement of vehicles or pedestrians.

*All pruning on public rights of way and all pruning by licensed tree services on public rights of way or private property is to be performed according to the following guidelines:*

- When tree pruning cuts are made to a side limb, the remaining limb must possess a basal thickness of at least 1/3 the diameter of the removed limb. Such cuts shall be considered proper only when the remaining limb is vigorous enough to maintain adequate foliage to produce woody growth capable of healing the pruning cut within a reasonable period of time.
- Ideally, pruning cuts will be made on live branches no more than 2" in diameter and are to be avoided on live branches larger than 4" in diameter.
- All final cuts shall be made adjacent to but not cutting into the branch collar.
- Limbs too large to hold securely in one hand after cutting shall be cut in small sections so the final cut adjacent to the branch collar does not tear the bark or damage the wood tissue.
- Trees will be pruned to maintain at least 1/2 the foliage in the bottom 2/3s of the tree. Removing more than half is "lion tailing" and makes the tree vulnerable to wind damage.
- Topping of trees, defined as the severe cutting back of limbs to stubs within the tree's crown to such a degree as to remove the normal canopy and disfigure the tree, is prohibited.
- If a tree has been damaged by a storm or other cause, it may be necessary to make a cut on a damaged live limb that is greater than 4" in diameter or to prune back to a side branch less than 1/3 the diameter of the branch being removed. Such cuts are to be avoided if possible. Damaged and/or undamaged limbs are NOT to be topped.
- Under utility lines, directional pruning is to be employed to remove lateral branches and limbs that are growing towards the line and to direct subsequent growth away from the line. All cuts are to be made according to the above specifications. A minimum number of cuts should be made in order to provide adequate clearance for the line, and the natural structure of the tree should be considered. Branches and limbs are NOT to be topped.
- Tree limbs or other parts of trees shall be removed in such a manner that damage will not occur to the tree or other trees or improvements.
- Tools used to prune or cut on any tree known or suspected to contain an infectious tree disease shall be properly disinfected with an anti-fungus or anti-bacterial solution before proceeding to the next tree.

- Cutting tools and saws used in making tree pruning cuts shall be kept sharpened adequately so final cuts are smooth and secure bark surrounds the branch collar.
- If it is necessary to close a street during pruning operations to insure public safety, Public Works should be notified in advance of the day of the work. On the day that the work is to be performed, the Police Department dispatcher should be notified so that emergency personnel can be informed of the closure.