



6.07 BOULEVARD TREE MAINTENANCE POLICY

PUBLIC WORKS – STREETS & PARKS

Enabling Legislation: M2018-098

Date Adopted: 09/18/18

Revised: 05/21/24

PURPOSE

The City of Northfield finds that it is in the best interest of the residents for the City to establish and maintain uniform criteria for tree removal, replacement, and maintenance operations. City Code, Chapter 86, Article II, Shade Trees, provides authority and direction for tree removal, replacement, and maintenance.

This policy applies to trees within the public street right-of-way under the jurisdiction of the City. It does not apply to trees entirely on private property or within right-of-way under the jurisdiction of another government agency.

The City will provide such service in a safe and cost-effective manner, keeping in mind safety, budget, personnel and environmental concerns. The City will use City employees, equipment and/or private contractors to provide this service.

SCHEDULE

The Streets and Parks Department maintains a goal to trim 1/10 of the City's boulevard trees yearly. Routine trimming of boulevard trees will typically occur from July 15 through September 30 and from November 1 through April 15. From April 16 through July 14 and during the month October, trimming will generally be limited to the removal of hazardous, broken, or dead limbs to avoid damaging trees. The Streets and Parks Manager may modify tree maintenance schedules as necessary based on weather, available resources, field conditions, tree disease outbreak, hazardous or emergency conditions, or other factors.

TREE MAINTENANCE

Boulevard trees that are dead, diseased, or present a hazard or a public nuisance **will be removed**. Removal of a boulevard tree shall include grinding the stump and restoring the boulevard using topsoil and seed.

All limbs of trees or portions of limbs that overhang public streets, sidewalks or paths and are less than 10 feet above the surface of any public sidewalk or path or are less than 13 feet above the surface of any public street constitute a nuisance. Limbs that overhang a sidewalk or street shall be trimmed to gain proper clearance.



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Tree maintenance standards stated above are critical to minimize damage to the tree and maintenance vehicles. These standards are also intended to provide adequate head room for pedestrians and bicyclists.

TREE REPLACEMENT

The City does not replace boulevard trees that are removed because of maintenance activities, severe weather, traffic/safety issues, or diseased trees unless authorized by another policy. The City has an annual tree sale for residents to purchase trees or residents may purchase approved boulevard trees from a private vendor. Property owner is responsible for replacement costs related purchasing and installing a new boulevard tree.

LIMITATIONS

While the City fully intends to meet the guidelines established in this policy, there may be times when this is not feasible. Issues including, but not limited to, budget constraints, critical equipment failure, weather, or other emergencies may prevent the City from meeting the guidelines established herein.

EFFECTIVE DATE OF POLICY

This Policy is effective as of September 18, 2018. Modifications of the Policy will be effective on the date said modifications are approved by the City Council.