

Who is Responsible for Trees?

Trees in the city right of way are generally considered "Private Trees" and are the maintenance responsibility of the adjacent property owner; however, the City is responsible for managing City right of way and its contents and thus all right of way work requires a permit and City review.

Additionally, sometimes the City will prune or remove trees that pose a hazard. There are also "Public Trees" planted by the City, such as those in grates along Water Street, which the City maintains.



This photo shows private trees in the ROW. Any work to these trees requires a permit

No-Fee Permits

All work in the City ROW requires a permit; most vegetation work will qualify for a no-fee permit. The City will review requests for new planting or replanting to help ensure long term success of the newly planted trees.

The City will review removal and pruning requests with the goal of tree retention and benefit for the neighborhood and City. You can find more information and the permit application on our website: www.cityofpt.us

Trees Provide a Multitude of Benefits

Trees and other vegetation throughout the city collectively provide an Urban Forest which greatly benefits the entire city of Port Townsend.

A few key benefits are:

- Increased appeal, enjoyment & property value,
- Effective wind and sound barriers,
- Stormwater management & filtration,
- Wildlife habitat & food source,
- Multifaceted environmental benefits: fight climate change by sequestering carbon, filter air and water, mitigate heat waves, convert CO2 to oxygen, and more!

The City manages the Urban Forest in the right of way with the goals of tree preservation and forest health. Care and pruning under supervision of a certified arborist can help save trees that would otherwise be removed.

Permits are required for any tree work in the ROW.



Volunteers planting a raingarden in the ROW



Landmark trees provide generational value



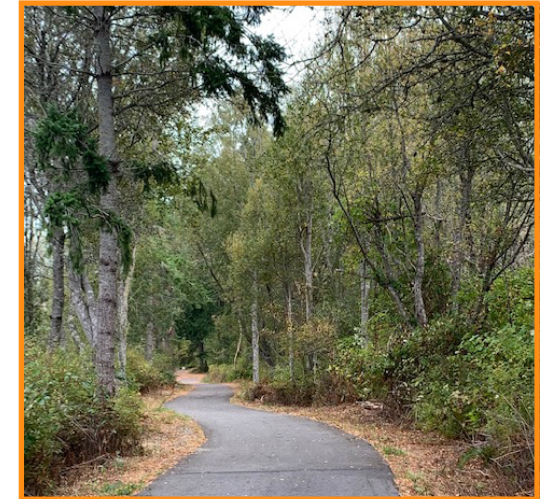
City of Port Townsend Public Works Dept.

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City of **Port Townsend**

Urban Forestry Trees in the right of way



Permit Requirements for Planting, Pruning and Removing Trees in the City Right of Way (ROW)



TREE CITY USA
An Arbor Day Foundation Program

The City of Port Townsend is a proud member of Tree City USA

Planting Trees

The City generally encourages the planting of trees. The City will review all planting requests to ensure the right tree is planted in the right place to avoid future problems as the tree matures. See the pre-approved tree list at: www.cityofpt.us



Removing Trees

While the City generally discourages removal of trees, it is sometimes necessary. If the tree is in the wrong place, or if the tree is dead, dying, diseased or dangerous it must be removed. Sometimes pruning can resolve the issue which is preferred over removal, and performed under advisement by a certified arborist to ensure tree health.



The Right Tree in the Right Place

Some species may provide great habitat and wind break in a greenbelt location, but block views and grow into power lines if planted on a corner uptown.

It's critical to consider species growth habits and mature size when choosing a location for a new tree.

The Right Tree in the Right Place

- Will not cause safety or line of sight issues for drivers,
- Will not interfere with utilities,
- Will not substantially block views,
- Will not block use of sidewalk or roads.



Smaller, short trees are a good fit under power lines

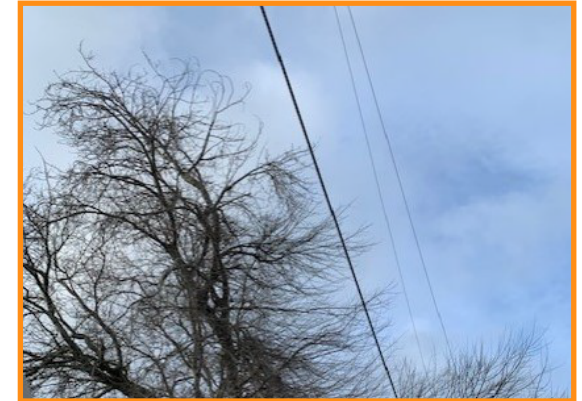


Good example of a tree not impeding sight for vehicles

The Wrong tree in the Wrong Place

Sometimes a tree is not a good fit for the chosen location.

- Tall growing trees should not be planted under power lines.
- Bushy trees should not be planted near corners because they can cause safety issues by blocking drivers' line of sight.
- Deciduous trees should not be planted next to storm drains; the leaves can clog the grates and lead to flooding.
- No vegetation may interfere with free use of the sidewalk or roadway, and must be continually maintained to prevent blocking.



Tall trees grow into power lines



Overgrown bushes block sidewalks