

URBAN FORESTRY: TREES IN THE RIGHT OF WAY

Planting, Pruning and Removal Information

Trees and vegetation along roadsides and on public and private property collectively provide an urban forest which provides many important functions in a city. Plantings provide wildlife habitat, neighborhood beautification and help new development feel established. Privacy, sound and wind barriers, and stormwater absorption are some of the other very important and often underappreciated features trees provide. **City policies, rules, regulations, and adopted plans discourage removal of trees and encourages planting of trees in the right of way. When planting new trees, it is critical, that the right tree is planted in the right place. Tree removal is generally discouraged.** Planting, pruning, and removal of trees requires obtaining a permit to help this objective be met. In addition to this packet, more information may be found in PTMC 12.04.075(D), and the Engineering Design Standards.

Trees in the right of way (both in landscaped or native vegetated areas) are generally considered “Private Trees” and are the responsibility of the adjacent property owner; there are also “Public Trees” planted by the City, such as those in grates along Water St., which the City maintains. Additionally, there are green belts that span right of way and private property in which the City may provide periodic maintenance along road sides. The following information is intended to provide information on the requirements for planting, pruning or removal of trees in the right of way by the adjoining property owners. Section 12.04.075 (D) of PTMC applies.

City rules and regulations assign the responsibility of tree management in the right of way to the Public Works Department who partners with other City Departments in addressing requests to plant, prune, and/or remove trees in the right of way. Citizens submit a no-fee permit which is reviewed by the City to ensure proposed tree removal or pruning is beneficial for the neighborhood and City; or that new planting or replanting requests, place the right trees in the right place (ex. tall growing trees should not be planted under power lines, bushy trees should not block the line of sight for traffic, and trees with water seeking roots should not be planted above water or sewer lines).

The Public Works Dept. will review the request to determine the appropriateness of pruning or removal taking into account the following criteria:

- A. Whether the tree is dead, diseased, dying or dangerous. A certified arborist report is required if the tree to be removed is not dead; if the tree is dying to the point of becoming a hazard as determined solely by the Public Works Department, the arborist report may be waived.
- B. If the tree was a volunteer (grew on its own, was not planted), was planted by an abutting owner, or was planted under a city program. If the tree is a Landmark Tree.
- C. Whether the tree is of a type not suitable for the location (ex. fir tree growing under power lines).
- D. If the tree’s location is not suitable (ex. on a corner blocking drivers’ line of sight).
- E. Impact on surrounding properties and public spaces.
- F. Whether removal improves the environment (ex. thinning of trees, to benefit the remaining)

City staff will generally preform a site visit and review all applications with the goal of tree preservation. If tree removal for disease is requested, the submitted arborists report will be reviewed by the City Arborist and staff and the tree will be evaluated with one of the following determinations:

1. The tree is healthy enough to leave.
2. If the tree can be pruned to save the tree.

3. If removal is necessary because it is not the right tree in the right location, the tree is an imminent hazard, or the tree health warrants removal.

Conditions that do NOT warrant pruning or removal include tree is perceived as too large or tall, or obstructs views, or is perceived as making too much shade. In some areas, limited pruning or removal may occur if overall canopy and coverage of trees is not substantially affected.

If an application to remove a tree is approved, conditions may be required including that removal be done by a licensed contractor, removal includes stumps and roots and treating the remaining roots to prevent regrowth, or other site-specific protections/requirements. A removal agreement and liability insurance may be required insuring the City from claims arising or relating to removal. Replanting is required if the tree was not dead, diseased, dying or dangerous; in limited circumstances if there is no suitable location on site, the City may allow the replacement tree to be planted at a site designated by the City.

When applying to plant or replant a tree, it is crucial to plant the right tree in the right place to ensure long term success. Please take into account the following standards from PTMC 12.04.075(D):

- a. **Trees should not be planted in a manner that creates a safety issue or problems with sight for vehicles.**
- b. **Trees should not cause problems with utilities.** Consider, in addition to power lines, underground utilities. Trees should be planted at least 5 ft. from underground utility lines, 10 ft. from power poles, 20 ft. from street lights or other trees, and 30 ft. from a corner curb. *Trees planted under power lines should not exceed 20 feet.* Keep trees with water-seeking roots away from water and sewer pipes.
- c. **Trees should not cause substantial interference with views.**
- d. **Trees should be planted with due regard to the size and shape of tree, and the topography location and surroundings, and the need for spacing between trees.** Keep in mind the species and its size at maturity. Think about the tree form or shape, Small multi-stemmed trees work better in yards than near sidewalks/roads due to the need for regular pruning. Upright trees work better near sidewalks/roads.
- e. **No trees or other vegetation shall be allowed to overhang or prevent the free use of the sidewalk or roadway, or street maintenance activity, except that trees may extend over the sidewalk when kept trimmed to a height of eight feet above the sidewalk, and 14 feet above a roadway.**

When choosing a tree species, also consider maintenance requirements and growing conditions at the location you choose. The City maintains a suitable tree list trees must be selected from the list. The list is attached and may be found at: <https://cityofpt.us/development-services/page/trees-landscaping>.

Other Considerations

Watering- All young trees need to be watered during the summer until they are established (3-5 years).

Evergreen v. deciduous- there are many benefits to evergreens, both aesthetically and environmentally. Evergreens keep their foliage all year which helps slow and trap stormwater runoff better than bare deciduous, which keeps waterways clean. Deciduous trees often require additional maintenance to keep leaves off sidewalks, roadways, and out of storm drains.

Soil- To test the infiltration rate of your soil, dig a 1 foot deep hole and fill it with water. If it is still wet after an hour or two, it is best to consider a tree that can stay wet during winter months.

Non-invasive species- Stay away from plants with invasive tendencies.

Planting Details – Use planting details to guide proper installation.

Survivability - Tree permits require the applicant to ensure survivability for a minimum of a 3-year period through proper maintenance, irrigation, and protection.

URBAN FORESTRY: TREES IN THE RIGHT OF WAY

Planting, Pruning and Removal Application

MIP-TREE #:	
Project Address: _____	
Parcel #(s):	Addition:
Cross-streets:	Block: Lot(s): Zoning:
Is site located on a slope or within 200 ft of wetland or shoreline?? If yes describe and show on site plan: _____	

Applicant:			
Address:			
Phone:	Email:		
If agent, list adjacent property owner:			
All applications must include map/aerial photo that can be found at: cityofpt.maps.arcgis.com/home/index.html			
Contractor Business Name:			
Mailing Address:			
Phone:	Email:		
State License:	Exp.:	City License:	Exp.:

Request for new tree planting
<input type="checkbox"/> Review important considerations in <u>Urban Forestry: Trees in the Right of Way</u> handout. Tree species: _____ estimated height at maturity (if more than one tree is requested, please show all trees, species and estimated height on your site plan)
<input type="checkbox"/> Include two (2) copies of a site plan showing: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Overhead Power <input type="checkbox"/> Underground Power <input type="checkbox"/> Water <input type="checkbox"/> Sewer <input type="checkbox"/> Other utilities: _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Stormwater management features <input type="checkbox"/> Other trees <input type="checkbox"/> Sidewalks <input type="checkbox"/> Roads <input type="checkbox"/> Property Lines <input type="checkbox"/> Trails <input type="checkbox"/> Other relevant features
Describe your Watering and maintenance plan: (tree must be watered for first 3-5 years; maintenance continues for life of tree. Consider characteristics such as deciduous tree leaf management or species tendency to drop limbs) attach additional page as necessary: _____ _____ _____

Tree Removal and/or Pruning

- Review important considerations in: Urban Forestry: Trees in the Right of Way handout.
- The tree is dead, diseased, dying or dangerous. **A report from a certified arborist is required if the tree is not dead; or dying and is a hazard as determined by the Public Works Department.**
- Include photograph marked to show requested pruning.
- The tree is not suitable for location. Describe: _____

Tree removal benefits environment. Describe: _____

Was the tree: Planted under City program Planted by property owner Volunteer Unknown

How will removal/ pruning benefit surrounding properties?: _____

Other relevant information: _____

Replanting requirements are below (you may submit your replanting plan at the time of application following the standard details shown in this packet or found in the Engineering Design Standards).

- If the tree removed was dead, diseased, dying or dangerous; no replacement is required.
- If the tree is not dangerous or diseased to the point of requiring removal; two trees 3" diameter at 12" above natural ground level are to be planted for each tree removed.
- Property owner responsible for ensuring survival of new trees.

After your application is submitted it will be reviewed by staff including the City arborist, they will review any submitted reports and conduct a site visit to evaluate the tree(s) as necessary.

- If your application is approved and no replanting is required, you will be issued a permit with conditions on removal or pruning. A final inspection will be performed.
- If your application is approved and replanting is required, you must submit a replanting plan using the standard details in this packet (from Port Townsend Engineering Design Standards manual). Your replanting plan will be reviewed and must be approved before a permit will be issued. A final inspection will be performed.
- If your application is denied, you will be notified.

If you have questions, please contact the Planning & Community Development at (360)379-5095.

I hereby certify that the information provided is correct, that I am either the owner or authorized to act on behalf of the owner and that all activities associated with this permit will be in accordance with State Laws and the Port Townsend Municipal Code.

Signature

Date

Approved List of Trees in the Right of Way (ROW)

Botanical name	Common name	Type	Native (N)	Drought tolerant (DT)	Disease resistant (Dir)	Deer resistant (De)	Near Sidewalks OK (SW)	Painting strip, min. (ft)	Overhead wires OK (W)	Size H x W (ft)	Comments (see key to bottom)
Acer buergerianum	Trident Maple	D		DT	DIR		SW	4		25x20	round, shrublike; firm hand; red fall color
Acer campestre	Hedge Maple 'Queen Elizabeth'	D		DT	DIR		SW	5		35x30	vigorous; upright, reliable city tree
Acer glabrum	Douglas (Rocky Mountain) Maple	D	N				SW	5		30x30	sun to part shade; yellow fall color
Acer grandidentatum 'Schmidt'	Rocky Mountain Glow maple	D			DIR		SW	5		25x15	exfoliate copper-red bark; adaptable
Acer henryi	Henry maple	D		DT	DIR			6		30x30	trifoliate leaves, sun, interesting bark
Acer pennsylvanicum	Moosewood	D						6	W	20x20	part shade, shallow roots, attractive striped bark
Acer pseudosieboldianum	Korean maple	D						4	W	22x20	new; sun/shade, upright, good fall color
Acer tataricum 'Paddell'	Pattern Perfect Tatarian maple	D						4	W	25x20	oval shape, entire-leafed (no lobes), sturdy, fall color
Amelanchier x grandiflora	Rainbow Pillar 'Glenn's Upright'	D						4	W	20x15	white flowers; edible fruit; red fall color
Amelanchier x grandiflora	Serviceberry 'Robin Hill'	D					SW	4	W	25x15	upright oval; sun; colorful, low maintenance
Amelanchier laevis 'JFS-ARB'	Serviceberry 'Spring Flurry'	D						4		28x20	upright oval; sun; reliable street tree
Amelanchier laevis	Serviceberry 'Snowcloud'	D						4	W	25x15	upright oval; sun/part shade; reliable street tree
Amelanchier laevis	Serviceberry 'Cumulus'	D						4		25x10	upright; early bloom; reliable street tree
Arbutus unedo	Strawberry tree	BE		DT	DIR			5		30x30	shaggy bark; full sun; tree form difficult to maintain
Carpinus caroliniana JFS-KW6	American hornbeam 'Native Flame'	D						5		30x20	upright oval; bright red fall color
Cercocarpis montanus v. glaber	Birchleaf mountain mahogany	BE		DT		De	SW	4	W	12x8	long-lived; salt-tolerant; showy seed plumes
Chamaecyparis obtusa	Hinoki cypress 'Gracilis'	C		DT	DIR	De		4	W	25x15	slow growth; sun to light shade; columnar; low-branching
Chionanthus retusus	Chinese fringe tree	D			DIR			5	W	20x25	sun; white fringed flower clusters
Chionanthus retusus 'Tokyo Tower'	Tokyo Tower fringe tree	D						5	W	20x10	new; tightly upright; May bloom, low maintenance
Cornus nuttallii x florida	Dogwood Eddie's White Wonder	D						5		30x20	white flowers; red fall color
Cornus kousa 'Chinensis'	Kousa dogwood	D			DIR		SW	5	W	20x20	pink flowers; deep red fall color
Cornus x 'Rutban'	Aurora dogwood	D			DIR			5		20x20	upright to spreading; pink flowers; red fall color
Cornus x Rutcan	Constellation dogwood	D			DIR			5		25x20	upright; white flowers; sterile hybrid
Cornus kousa x nuttallii 'KN 30-8'	Venus dogwood	D			DIR			5		25x20	upright oval; giant white blossoms; tolerant
Cornus mas	Cornelian cherry	D			DIR			5	W	25x20	early small yellow flowers; wildlife value; edible fruit
Cotinus coggygria	Purple smoketree	D		DT				4	W	10x15	sun; tough; adaptable; tree form hard to maintain
Cotinus obovatus	American smoketree	D		DT	DIR	De		5		25x25	sun; adaptable; colorful fall foliage
Crataegus douglasii	Douglas hawthorn	D	N			De		4		25x15	shade-tolerant; wildlife value
Crataegus x lavalleyi	Lavalle hawthorn	D						4		28x20	irregular vase; persistent orange fruit
Crataegus phaenopyrum	Washington hawthorn	D						4		20x20	upright oval; can multitrunk; tolerant; persistent fruit
Cryptomeria japonica 'Elegans'	Japanese plume cedar	C			DIR			4		30x10	bronze/brown in winter; several varieties; low branching
Fagus sylvatica 'Fastigiata'	Copper beech 'Red Obelisk'	D			DIR			6		30x10	columnar; sun; tolerant; burgundy leaves
Fraxinus latifolia	Oregon ash	D	N	DT				6		60x35	only native ash; needs consistent root moisture; big
Ginkgo biloba	Princeton Sentry (males only)	D		DT	Dir			6		65x20	upright; gold fall color; males only; firm hand; big
Juniper scopulorum	Rocky Mountain juniper	C	N	DT		De	SW	5		40x12	sun; withstands drought; many cultivars; low branching
Maackia amurensis	Amur maackia	D		DT	DIR		SW	6	W	25x20	sun; vase shape; clusters of white flowers
Magnolia liliiflora x M. sprengeri	Galaxy magnolia	D			DIR			6	W	30x15	sun; late spring fragrant bloom; low maintenance
Magnolia kobus x M. salicifolia	Magnolia 'Wada's Memory'	D						6		30x35	sun; pyramidal; white flowers; fall color
Magnolia x loebneri	Merrill magnolia	BE			DIR	De		6		25x25	acid soil; early fragrant white flowers
Magnolia kobus	N. Japanese magnolia	D						6		35x25	large late spring white flowers; sun/part shade; tolerant

Approved List of Trees in the Right of Way (ROW)

Botanical name	Common name	Type	Key										Comments (see key to comments at bottom)
			Native (N)	Drought tolerant (DT)	Disease resistant (DIR)	Deer resistant (De)	Low Side walk OK (LSW)	New planting OK (NP)	Overhead wires OK (Wi)	Size H x W (ft)			
<i>Malus floribunda</i> 'Adirondack'	Adirondack crabapple	D			DIR			4	W	20x10		columnar; white flowers; orange fruit	
<i>Malus</i> 'Jarmin'	Marilee crabapple	D					SW	4	W	24x10		upright; nearly fruitless; large mid-spring white flowers	
<i>Malus</i> 'Royal Raindrops'	<i>Malus</i> x JFS-KW5	D						4		15x15		purplish leaves; late spring pink flowers; maroon fruit	
<i>Malus</i> 'Sugar Tyme'	<i>Malus</i> Sutyzam	D						4		18x15		upright spreading; early spring white flowers; red fruit	
<i>Myrica</i> (Morella) <i>californica</i>	Pacific wax myrtle	BE	N	DT	DIR	De		4		18x15		tolerant; wildlife value; tree form hard to maintain	
<i>Oxydendron arboreum</i>	Sourwood tree	D			DIR			6		35x20		needs summer water/acid soil; fall color	
<i>Parrotia persica</i>	Ironwood	D		DT	DIR			5		35x20		early red apetalous flower; mix of fall color	
<i>Parrotia persica</i> 'Ruby Vase'	Ruby Vase ironwood	D		DT	DIR		SW	4	W	28x16		upright; new foliage red; bright fall color	
<i>Parrotia persica</i> 'JLColumnar'	Persian Spire parrotia	D			DIR			4	W	25x10		new; columnar; bronze leaf edges	
<i>Parrotia persica</i> 'Vanessa'	Vanessa parrotia	D						4		28x14		upright, red fall foliage & winter flowers; tolerant	
<i>Pinus contorta</i>	Shore Pine	C	N	DT	DIR	De		8		40x20		twisted shape; salt-tolerant; low branching	
<i>Pinus densiflora</i> 'Imbraculifera'	Umbrella pine	C		DT	DIR	De		8		30x25		slow-growing; sun; well-drained soil; low branching	
<i>Pistacia chinensis</i>	Chinese pistache	D			DIR			8		25x20		sun; pinnate leaves; early pruning needed; tolerant	
<i>Prunus serrulata</i> 'Amanogawa'	Amanogawa cherry	D						6	W	20x8		columnar; pink double flowers; fall color	
<i>Prunus serrulata</i> 'Mt Fuji'	Mt Fuji cherry	D						6		15x20		spreading; white flowers; fall color	
<i>Prunus</i> 'Snow Goose'	Snow Goose cherry	D						6	W	20x20		white early flowers; full sun; good drainage	
<i>Prunus</i> x <i>yedoensis</i> 'Akebono'	Akebono cherry	D						6	W	25x25		soft pink flowers; WA DC 'cherry trees'	
<i>Pyrus betulifolia</i>	Birch-leaf pear 'Dancer'	D		DT	DIR			5		30x20		oval; tolerant; white flowers; burgundy purple in fall	
<i>Quercus garryana</i>	Oregon white oak/Garry oak	D	N					8		65x50		only native oak; slow-growing; sun; big at maturity	
<i>Quercus ilex</i>	Holly Oak	BE				De		6		40x30		salt-tolerant; sun to light shade; adaptable	
<i>Quercus robur</i> 'Fastigiata'	English oak, columnar	D			DIR			6		40x15		upright; columnar; low-maintenance, big at maturity	
<i>Quercus robur</i> x <i>Q. alba</i>	Crimson Spire Oak 'Crimschmidt'	D		DT	DIR			6		45x15		tightly upright; red fall color; tolerant of urban setting	
<i>Rhamnus purshiana</i>	Cascara	D	N					4	W	30x25		moist soil; sun or shade; wildlife value	
<i>Rhus typhina</i>	Staghorn sumac	D		DT	DIR	De		4		20x20		fragrant flowers; wildlife value	
<i>Stewartia pseudocameillia</i>	Japanese stewartia	D			DIR		SW	5	W	25x20		oval shape; summer 'camellia' flowers; peeling bark	
<i>Styrax japonicus</i>	Snowbell (JFS-D)	D		DT				5	W	25x25		bell-shaped flowers; yellow fall color	
<i>Syringa reticulata</i> 'Ivory Silk'	Ivory Silk Japanese Tree Lilac	D			DIR			4		20x15		rounded; sun; fragrant flowers; low maintenance; tolerant	
<i>Zelkova serrata</i>	City Sprite Zelkova JFS-KW1	D		DT	DIR		SW	4	W	25x20		bright green foliage; low maintenance	
<i>Zelkova serrata</i>	Wireless; Schmidtlow	D		DT	DIR			8	W	25x35		spreading vase shape; elm-like; firm hand when young	
	key to abbreviations											key to comments	
	BE=broadleaf evergreen											low branching=conifers may branch to the ground and be difficult to maintain sightlines and tree integrity	
	C=conifer											tree form hard to maintain=occur as large multi-trunk shrub; require pruning to maintain tree form	
	D=deciduous											big=mature form may be too big for most streets and overwhelm root space, may be better in parks	
	De= deer resistant											new=relatively new cultivar in 2017	
	DIR= disease resistant											firm hand=species requires early pruning to train leader	
	DT= drought tolerant											tolerant=tolerant of urban pollution and other stressors	