



City of Aberdeen

Street Trees

All trees growing within public places are considered to be street trees, and are protected through the implementation of the *Street Tree Ordinance*. This manual is designed for property owners, tree service providers, contractors and others who are planning to perform work on, near, or around street trees.

Aberdeen Municipal Code 10.32.010

Parking Strips within jurisdiction of Park Board. All parking strips within the city north of the Chehalis River and west of Wishkah River and east of Division Street are placed under the jurisdiction and supervision of the park board of the city of Aberdeen.

It is unlawful for any person to plant any trees or shrubbery in any parking strip within the city of Aberdeen without having first secured a permit to do so from such park board.

10.32.050 Removal of trees and shrubbery already existing and those planted in violation of chapter

Any trees or shrubbery planted in violation of the provisions of this chapter on any parking strip shall be deemed a nuisance, and liable to destruction or removal under the authority of the park board; provided, however, that trees now planted and in a growing condition shall not be removed except by the mutual consent of the owner and the park board, or as hereinafter provided. Whenever the park board shall find that any tree or shrub growing on any street or parkway within the city of Aberdeen has, by reason of its growth, decay or otherwise, become dangerous to public travel upon said street, or is causing damage to the pavement, sidewalk, sewer or other improvement located on or under said street, the park board may order the trimming or removal of said tree or shrub without the consent of the owner.

Unless the owner consents to such removal, the park board shall, at least ten days before ordering such removal or trimming, give notice in writing to the abutting owner of its intention to remove or trim said tree or shrub, during which time the owner may protest in writing to the park board the removal or trimming of such tree or shrub, such protest to be filed with the city comptroller. If such written protest is filed, the park board shall give the owner an opportunity to be heard, after which hearing the park board may enter its order in accordance with its findings. All such orders shall be entered in the minutes of the meeting of the park board.

1. PERMITTING PROCESS

- a. A permit is required for any work in public places, including but not limited to tree planting, tree removal, and major pruning.
- b. The Aberdeen Parks Department is responsible for permitting and inspecting tree management activities in the public places. Permits will also require review and approval by the Public Works Director or City Engineer; and the Community Development Director.
- c. Maintenance of street trees within public places is the responsibility of the adjacent property owner(s)

Property owners are responsible for maintaining any street trees adjacent to their property in the public right of way which are not identified as being city maintained; and property owners are responsible for the trees on their own property which impact the public place. Permits are required for the following activities:

Major Pruning: Major pruning means removal of branches two inches in diameter or greater; removal of roots two inches in diameter or greater; or removal of branches constituting more than 15 percent of a tree's foliage-bearing area.

Removal: The City's policy is to retain and preserve street trees whenever possible.

Accordingly, street

tree removal shall not be permitted unless the Director determines that a street tree:

1. Is a hazardous tree;
2. Poses a public safety hazard;
3. Is in such a condition of poor health or poor vigor that removal is justified; or
4. Cannot be successfully retained due to public or private construction or development conflicts.

Planting: A permit is required to plant vegetation in the City's improved Right of Ways.

Selection of vegetation should take into consideration impact on City infrastructure, such as sidewalks, water lines, roads, and sewer lines.

If street trees are growing within a designated Critical Area, additional restrictions will apply. *AMC Chapter 14.100 Critical Area Protection*. Contact the Community Development Director to apply for a permit.

Traffic Control: The property owner or contractor must provide appropriate traffic control during all street tree work. Please contact the Public Works Department at 537-3268 for details.

Permit Applications: Applications are available online at www.aberdeenwa.gov on the Parks & Recreation Department page. Parks Director at 360-537-3229 or sbarnum@aberdeenwa.gov.