



## Forestry Section

### Tree Maintenance Priority Definitions for Request Work

Any pruning prescribed shall conform to current standards as set forth in the American National Standards Institute (ANSI) A-300 (parts 1-9) "Tree, Shrub, and Other Woody Plant Maintenance Standard Practices" and the International Society of Arboriculture (ISA) "Tree Pruning Guidelines". The City of Madison does not prune or remove privately owned trees unless the private tree has fallen into the public right-of-way or is immediately threatening public safety.

#### **RUSH** Completion time: Same Day

Emergency tree pruning that involves a hanger, broken branch or a stop sign or traffic signal obstruction. Emergency tree removal that poses an immediate risk to the general public or private property such as a split tree or a tree blocking a road or sidewalk; Tree grate maintenance that may cause a tripping hazard ; tree removal due to storm damage.

#### **ASAP** Completion time: 7 business days

Tree removal that complies with the following criteria;

- A tree that has been determined by a representative of the City of Madison to be a hazard because of its high potential for failure due to considerable dead or dying foliage, branches, roots or trunk.
- A tree that would require extensive root pruning because of excessive hardscape damage resulting in the severe reduction of its capability to support itself thereby creating a safety hazard.

Tree pruning that complies with the following criteria;

- A tree that has branches with evidence of decay and is located on a major thoroughfare.
- Tree limbs that are in physical contact with private property and causing damage.
- Trees obstructing the view of oncoming traffic.
- Trees obstructing speed limit and no parking signs.



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**ROUTINE** Completion time: Tree work that is not an emergency will be logged and done as staff is available.

Tree removal that complies with the following criteria;

- A tree that is in decline and will most likely be dead within a year.
- A tree in a park setting that poses a risk to a designated public space or permanent Structure such as a park bench, playground area, shelter area, parking lot, Indian mound, bike or walking path, athletic field, dog park area, approved hiking trail or boat launch.

Tree pruning that complies with the following criteria;

- A tree branch with branches touching private property with potential to cause damage.
- A tree with branches that hang 10 feet or lower over the street on a major thoroughfare and /or vehicle damage present within the canopy .
- A tree that has branches that hang 5 feet or lower over a sidewalk
- A tree in a park that touches a park shelter roof.
- A tree in a park that interferes with park lighting.

**SATELLITE** Completion time: within 6 months

Tree pruning that complies with the following criteria;

- Several trees on a block (or several blocks) that have branches hanging 5 feet or lower over the sidewalk.
- Several trees on a block (or several blocks) that have branches hanging 10 feet or lower over the street.
- Agency request pruning for snow plow routes, bus routes, garbage pickup or Engineering street projects that include sewer repair work.



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### DISTRICT Pruning

Urban Forestry Best Management Practices show that a pruning cycle of seven years is appropriate for street trees. This means that every street tree within the city should be pruned every seven years. This type of pruning is to provide routine pruning for all street trees within a defined geographical boundary called tree maintenance districts. District pruning is an efficient and effective way to provide tree care because crews are moving from one street tree to the next. This pruning addresses;

- Street tree clearance
- Sidewalk clearance of 14 feet
- Sidewalk clearance of 8 feet
- Dead and dying branches
- Private property clearance
- Street light clearance
- Training of young, newly planted trees

### SMALL TREE CYCLE PRUNING

Urban Forestry Best Management Practices show that pruning cycle of three years for a young or newly planted tree is appropriate.

Purpose of Small Tree Cycle Pruning;

- To gradually raise the canopy over the street and sidewalk by removing lower temporary scaffolding branches that are no longer necessary for developing trunk taper.
- To remove small amounts of deadwood and rubbing branches.
- To remove multiple leaders to form a single leader.
- To create good branch structure that will improve the tree's long-term health, function and longevity

The City of Madison Parks Division will not provide or allow pruning or removal of city owned trees for the following reasons:

- Satellite dishes
- Hamm radio antennae
- Solar collectors
- Vistas