

Terms and Conditions - 2026

Planting

Permits for planting on public property are subject to review by Forestry based on site conditions and planting goals outlined in the Street and Park Tree Master Plan.

1. **Tree stock** must be cultivated nursery stock with a form typical of the species and not less than one and one half (1.5) inches in diameter, measured six (6) inches above the ground.
2. **Underground utilities must be located** by the Property Owner prior to planting by contacting Gopher State One Call at (651) 454-0002 or (800) 252-1166 before a permit application will be reviewed. Utility locates are valid for fourteen (14) calendar days and must be renewed if planting does not occur within this time. This is a free service.
3. **Tree planting locations** will be determined by Forestry after utilities have been located.
4. **Forestry may inspect** the permitted trees after planting. Any trees that are improperly planted or that fail to meet the stock, species, or spacing requirements established in this permit must be corrected. Forestry will notify the applicant if corrective action is required.

Stump Removal

Stumps/roots must be removed to a depth of at least eight (8) inches below ground level and the hole refilled with topsoil. Underground utilities must be located prior to stump or root removal by calling Gopher State One Call at (651) 454-0002 or (800) 252-1166. This is a free service.

Decorative Lighting

Lighting and power cords must be loosely placed on trees. Fasteners, such as nails and staples, must not be used to attach lighting or power cords to trees. Trees must not be pruned to facilitate the installation of lighting or power cords. Decorative lighting must be removed by April 1st.

Bracing

Bracing in a public tree will only be installed by Forestry. Upon review, Forestry will determine the need for bracing, the type of bracing to be installed, or if other work may be necessary including trimming or removal of the tree.

THE FOLLOWING TREE WORK ON PUBLIC PROPERTY MUST BE COMPLETED BY A LICENSED TREE CONTRACTOR

A list of City licensed contractors is available from the Department of Safety and Inspections at (651) 266-8989. The applicant to whom the permit is issued is responsible for the disposal of all tree waste generated by the trimming or removal of the public trees, stumps, and roots.

Removals

Trees on public property are removed to promote public safety and mitigate unsound or damaged tree structure. In most cases, the removal of trees that provide value to the urban landscape and benefit the community will not be approved. All final decisions regarding tree removal are made by Forestry.

1. **Tree removals** on public land must include stump removal, see **Stump Removal** above.
2. **Trees removed from public grounds are subject to replacement** or compensation equal to the value of the trees as determined by the Forestry Manager (City Code Chapter 176) using the latest edition of the "Minnesota Supplement to the Guide for Plant Appraisal."

Chemical Injections and Other Treatments

Chemical injections must be done using a trunk injection system: soil drenches are not an approved application method.

1. **Any treatment** to public trees must meet current ANSI A300 arboricultural standards and does not preclude removal of the trees if condemned under any City ordinance. Treatment approved by this, or other City permit, does not guarantee that the treated tree will not be removed in the future. The final decision on whether a tree is a viable candidate for treatment rests with Forestry.

Pruning

Public boulevard trees are pruned to promote proper tree structure, to allow for pedestrian and vehicle access, and to remove dead, damaged, and unsound wood.

1. **Pruning** of public trees must meet current ANSI A300 arboricultural standards and appropriate tools must be used to ensure that all cuts are clean and without torn bark. Prune only to remove damaged, weakened, and diseased branches; to reduce weight on lateral limbs; or to improve the structure of the tree. Remove the least desirable of any crossing or rubbing branches. Topping and pollarding are not allowed practices.
2. **Timing for pruning** must follow recommended pruning schedules to reduce the spread of insects and disease. Oak, honeylocust, elm, and crabapple should only be pruned November through March while trees are dormant. If pruning must occur outside of this period, then oak tree wounds must be painted from April 1st to July 1st and elm tree wounds must be painted from April 1st to November 1st.
3. **Damaged or loose bark** should be cut away using a sharp knife or chisel, leaving no sharp corners, to a location at which live bark clings tightly to the trunk.
4. **Lower limbs** should be removed to form a symmetrical shape and allow for clearance on both the street and sidewalk sides.
5. **The City of Saint Paul** reserves the right to (re)prune a boulevard tree at any time.