

TREE PLANTING, PRUNING AND CARE

Missouri's Department of Conservation also provides useful tips for tree care on its Website at <http://mdc.mo.gov>. Look under the "Trees and Plants" heading, and choose Tree Care. Information about the Emerald Ash Borer, which has been found in Kirkwood, can be found on their website as well. This pest is fatal to ash trees. When dead, ash trees become brittle and difficult to remove. The City is treating some ash trees, while gradually removing stressed and declining ash trees and replacing them with more desirable species.

How your tree is pruned or trimmed can affect its visual appeal as well as its overall health. The City has a multi-year program of scheduled tree pruning performed by certified arborists under the direction of the Urban Forester. Are you interested in having a street tree planted in the ROW in front of your home? A street tree request form can be found on the City's website on the Urban Forestry Commission page. You can also find information there on the City's tree ordinance, which will

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apply if you are planning on certain improvements that require a permit through the Building Commissioner's office.

To learn more, or to access the *Kirkwood Tree Manual*, visit our website at:

**[www.kirkwoodmo.org/
UrbanForestry](http://www.kirkwoodmo.org/UrbanForestry)**

For information about this brochure or other publications of the City of Kirkwood, please contact the Public Information Office:
139 S. Kirkwood Road
Kirkwood, MO 63122
314-822-5894
Revised August 2019

CITY OF KIRKWOOD URBAN FORESTRY COMMISSION

The Urban Forestry Commission was created in 1998 and was established to:

- Promote a high standard of long-term planning, maintenance, and perpetuation of Kirkwood's publicly owned trees.
- Encourage responsible management and maintenance of privately owned trees.
- Work with the City's Urban Forester to develop a street tree planting program, appropriate pruning of street trees, removal of hazardous street trees, maintenance of the City's tree inventory, grant applications, and educational programs on Urban Forestry.



FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT STAFF LIAISON GEORGIA RAGLAND, ASSISTANT CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER, AT 314-822-5801, OR URBAN FORESTER CORY MEYER AT 314-984-5907.



STREET TREES, RIGHT-OF-WAY, TREE SELECTION & REMOVAL

Public Right-of-Way (ROW):

The public ROW is land reserved for public purpose such as a street, walkway, or a space being used by utilities. Unless you live on a private street, the street in front of your home and usually several feet of land on either side is located in the public ROW. That means the City of Kirkwood has the right to manage the ROW and can restrict or determine what can be placed in the ROW, including trees, fire hydrants, water mains, electric poles or lines, streets, and curbs. To verify City ROW locations, call 314-822-5822.



Care of Trees in the ROW:

Street trees are desirable additions to the public ROW, but they are also

assets that come under the City's authority. The City of Kirkwood will manage the removal of dead trees and hazardous limbs from trees located in the ROW. Homeowners are encouraged to water trees in the ROW as appropriate. To prevent the obstruction of the movement and view of vehicles and pedestrians, homeowners need to keep branches from obstructing sidewalks and line of sight. Current standards for clearance are a vertical clearance of 7 feet above a sidewalk, 12 feet above the curb, and 14 feet above the center-line of roadways.

Tree Selection for ROW Planting:

The City has adopted the *City of Kirkwood Tree Manual*, which identifies pruning standards, tree planting specifications, and an approved list of street tree species suitable for planting in the ROW as well as a prohibited list of undesirable trees. Undesirable trees are trees that may grow too tall under power lines or that may produce weak branches, messy fruit (which can be a slip hazard), or numerous viable seeds (which can be potentially invasive of surrounding landscape). *The Tree*

Manual can be found on the City's Website on the Urban Forestry Commission's page, at www.kirkwoodmo.org/UrbanForestry.

Removal of a ROW Tree:

Removing a healthy tree from the ROW requires the City's permission. If a homeowner desires to remove a hazardous public tree located in the ROW adjacent to their property, the City handles removal of the tree at no cost. If it is not a hazard, then the request is presented to the Commission, which may make a recommendation to the Urban Forester, who may then authorize the homeowner to remove the street tree at their cost and with possible conditions attached, such as planting of a new tree.

Tree Planting, Pruning, and Care

The Arbor Day Foundation's Website provides a great deal of information on how to care for trees, from planting, to mulching, watering, pruning, and identifying pest and disease problems. Visit their Website at arborday.org. Click on Trees, and then scroll down.