
Sec. 30-434. Pruning, maintenance, and removal.

- (a) *Pruning.* Vegetation required by this Code shall be pruned by property owners to promote healthy, uniform, natural growth of the vegetation. Pruning shall be performed in accordance with the current edition of pruning standards published by the American National Standard Institute (ANSI) A300 Pruning Standards, ANSI Z133.1 Safety Standards. Trees shall not be severely pruned in a manner that would damage the vegetation and permanently restrict growth or height. Severely pruned trees are considered damaged and a public nuisance, which shall be replaced with trees equal to the number and height of the damaged trees. A plant's growth habit shall be considered to determine the extent of pruning necessary to maintain healthy growth.
- (1) *Utility pruning.* Utilities shall conform to current ANSI A-300 standards when performing line clearing work within public right-of-way. All utilities shall notify the city manager or designee by electronic communication or mail no later than 30 business days prior to performing any utility line clearing work within public right-of-ways. Franchised utilities, after notifying the city manager or designee, shall meet with the city manager or designee to review and approve plans and schedules for utility line clearing work. Franchised utilities shall have an ISA certified arborist directing the pruning of public and private trees. Utility pruning should only provide minimum safe clearance to protect energized power lines with consideration for the combined movement of the conductors near trees in severe weather, the species of the tree, and the voltage of the conductor.
- (2) *Canopy and root pruning.* When activities affect public or private trees so that more than 50 percent of the area within the dripline is disturbed, or when pruning must be performed on the crown of a public or private tree, the following arboricultural techniques are required:
- When the area within the dripline will be disturbed, the affected roots must be severed by clean pruning cuts where the activity impacts the roots. Roots may be pruned by utilizing trenching equipment that is specifically designed for this purpose or by hand digging a trench and pruning roots with a chain saw, pruning saw or other equipment designed for tree pruning. Roots within the dripline shall be pruned to a depth of 12 inches below existing grade or to the depth of the disturbance if less than 12 inches from the existing grade. When underground utilities are to be installed through the dripline, root pruning requirements may be waived by the city manager or designee if the lines are installed via tunneling or directional boring.
 - All pruning of public or private trees shall conform to the current ANSI standards defined herein and shall be supervised by an ISA certified arborist. There shall be no flush cuts, stub cuts, or lion's tailing of the crown of the tree.
 - It shall be a violation of this section to perform the techniques of topping, hatracking or other pruning techniques that remove the vertical leader stems or other pruning which results in an unnecessary reduction of shade of public or private trees.
- (b) *Maintenance.* The owner shall be responsible for the continued maintenance and upkeep of all required landscaping so as to present a healthy plant in a condition representative of the species. Tree and palm staking shall be removed between six and 12 months after installation. All landscapes shall be kept free of refuse, debris, disease, pests, and weeds and shall be fertilized and irrigated to maintain plants in a healthy condition. Special maintenance requirements necessary to preserve the design professional's intent shall be noted on the planting plan.
- (1) *Care and maintenance of permitted private trees on city owned property.* The care and maintenance of all private trees permitted on city owned property shall be the responsibility of the adjacent property owner. A permit shall be obtained from the city manager or designee prior to planting a private tree in the public right-of-way or on other city property. Property owners shall adhere to the maintenance and

pruning standards contained herein when maintaining privately-owned trees on city property. Property owners must apply for a vegetation removal permit from the city manager or designee in accordance with Code article XIV and a permit to replace any private tree in the right-of-way in accordance with Code section 30-435.

- (2) *Care and maintenance of public trees on city owned property.* The city manager shall designate a department to be responsible for the care and maintenance of public trees on city owned property. Public trees are city street trees, median trees and cul-de-sac trees as defined in section 30-10. The department shall adhere to the maintenance and pruning standards contained herein when maintaining public trees on city property. The department director shall make reports and requests for funds for the care and maintenance of public trees, including needed planting and replanting, to the city council as part of the annual budget approval process. Before removing any public tree from the right-of-way, the department director shall notify the city manager and any other affected department directors.
- (3) *Private care and maintenance of public trees on city owned property.* Private property owners may make a written request to the city manager or designee for permission to care for and maintain public trees on public property. Property owners shall adhere to the maintenance and pruning standards contained herein when maintaining publically owned trees on city property. Before replanting, removal or replacement of any public tree, a private property owner shall obtain the permission of the city manager or designee to plant the tree, shrub or other vegetation and if necessary apply for a vegetation removal permit from the city manager or designee in accordance with article XIV. If the replanting shall be in the right-of-way, the property owner shall obtain a permit from the city manager or designee in accordance with section 42-76. Fees for a permit for vegetation removal or replanting shall be waived for public trees.
- (c) *Removal of damaged or nuisance trees.* Ongoing maintenance to prohibit the establishment of prohibited exotic species is required. Any plant materials of whatsoever type or kind required by these regulations shall be replaced within 30 days of their demise and/or removal.
- (d) *Compliance.* Code compliance will inspect areas affected by this code and issue citations for violations. If the required corrective action is not taken within the time allowed, the city may use any available means of enforcement to secure compliance including, but not limited to:
 - (1) Prosecution before the city code enforcement board;
 - (2) Withholding of any permit, construction plan approval, certificate of occupancy, or inspection by the city; and
 - (3) Placing a lien on the property, to include all administrative, legal, material and installation costs.

(Ord. No. 02-22, § 4, 7-15-2002; Ord. No. 09-14, § 4, 10-19-2009; Ord. No. 11-07, § 2, 6-20-2011)