

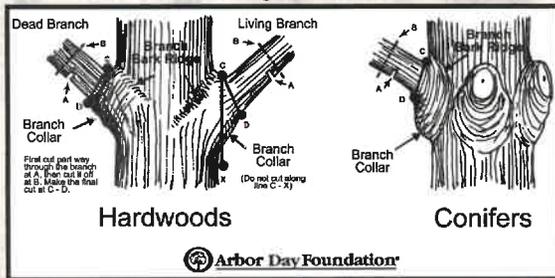
QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Q: WHAT DOES THE TREE ORDINANCE MEAN TO ME?

A: In most cases it will not affect you. The ordinance deals primarily with trees on City property or street trees. Trees on private land are not covered under the Ordinance unless they interfere with utilities or traffic, or they pose a hazard to life and property.

Q: CAN I STILL HAVE MY TREES PRUNED?

A: Yes. Street trees can be pruned by the adjacent owner with a permit that may be obtained at the Customer Assistance Department at City Hall. All pruning cuts must be made at the branch collar (see figure below).



The City has the right to prune any tree that obstructs traffic visibility or interferes with street signs or traffic lights. All trees shall be pruned to allow clearance of:

- 14 feet above streets
- 8 feet above sidewalks

Q: CAN THE CITY REQUIRE ME TO REMOVE A TREE?

A: Yes. The City may require the removal of any tree and/or stump that presents a hazard to life or property. A hazard tree has a structural defect that will likely cause the tree or a portion of the tree to fall on someone or something. Infested or diseased trees that threaten the health of other trees within the City may also require removal.

Q: WHAT IF I DON'T REMOVE A TREE AS REQUESTED BY THE CITY?

A: If the City asks you to remove a tree and you refuse or are unable to do so, the City will remove the tree, and will place a tax lien upon your property for the cost of tree removal.

Q: DO I NEED A PERMIT TO PLANT A TREE?

A: A permit is only required if you want to plant a tree within the street right-of-way. Avoid species that are on the "Do Not Plant Street Tree List." Enclosed is a list of recommended street trees based on the Missouri Department of Conservation's "Missouri Urban Tree Guide" as revised in 2009 and the Arbor Day Foundation.

Q: WHERE DO I GET A PERMIT TO PLANT A TREE IN THE PUBLIC RIGHT-OF-WAY?

A: Permits may be obtained in the Building Division, Room 106 at City Hall. There is a \$17.00 fee for the permit. (Fees are subject to change).

NOTE: For information on proper selection, planting, and maintenance of trees, contact a MO Department of Conservation forester or certified arborist or the following resources:

www.treelink.org

www.arborday.org

www.isa.com

www.righttreerightplace.com

For more information concerning Tree Ordinance regulations, contact the Neighborhood Services Office:

816-596-8311

A GUIDE TO ST. JOSEPH'S TREE ORDINANCE



TREE CITY USA®

WHAT A DIFFERENCE A TREE MAKES!

Properly cared-for trees in St. Joseph will:

- Increase property values - residential, commercial, and industrial
- Contribute to a sense of community pride and ownership
- Reduce air-conditioning and heating costs by up to 25%
- Clean the air and hold dangerous pollutants
- Calm traffic and people
- Attract businesses and tourism
- Serve as living proof that St. Joseph is committed to its future

WHY A TREE ORDINANCE?

The purpose of the Tree Ordinance is to promote and protect the public health, safety and general welfare by regulating the planting, maintenance, and removal of "Street Trees" and trees on City-owned property.

TREES COVERED UNDER THE ORDINANCE INCLUDE:

- Trees on City property.
- Trees that interfere with traffic signs and visibility, utility wires and underground lines, streets, and sidewalks.
- Trees that threaten lives or property.
- All Street Trees: defined as "...trees lying between property lines on either side of all streets, avenues, or ways within the City." This area is generally the space between the sidewalk and curb; or if a sidewalk is not present, usually 11 feet inside the curb.

PLANTING SPACE

No tree may be planted between the curb and sidewalk in a space smaller than the following:

Small Trees	2 feet
Medium Trees	3 feet
Large Trees	4 feet or larger

However, the recommended planting location is behind the sidewalk on the property owner's side of the walk to allow the tree roots plenty of space to grow. This will avoid raising and breaking of the sidewalk or street in the future.

No tree shall be planted within 35 feet of any street corner, 20 feet of any alley corner, or 10 feet of any water meter or fire hydrant.

Street Trees may be planted no closer than the minimum spacing indicated below:

Small Trees	25 feet
Medium Trees	25 feet
Large Trees	50 feet

UTILITY LINES

Only small trees from the enclosed approved Street Tree List may be planted within 10 lateral feet of any overhead utility wires. No tree may be planted within 5 lateral feet of any underground utility line.

*Before planting any tree, call
1-800-DIG-RITE
to avoid the liability of accidentally
severing an underground utility line.*

**TOPPING OF STREET TREES
IS PROHIBITED!**



DO NOT PLANT STREET TREE LIST

- Ash (any kind) (Fraxinus)
- Black Locust (Robinia pseudoacacia)
- Bradford or Callery Pear (Pyrus calleryana)
- Catalpa (Catalpa bignoniodes)
- Cedar (Thuja plicata)
- Fir (Abies)
- Goldenchain (Laburnum)
- Mimosa (Albizia julibrissin)
- Mulberry (Morus)
- Pine (Pinus)
- Pin Oak (Quercus palustris)
- Saucer Magnolia (Magnolia X soulangeana)
- Siberian Elm (Ulmus pumila)
- Silver Maple (Acer saccharinum)
- Spruce (Picea)
- Tree of Heaven (Ailanthus altissima)
- Willow (any kind) (Salix)



RECOMMENDED STREET TREE LIST

SMALL TREES:

Amur Maple
Crabapple, Flowering
Downy Serviceberry
Hawthorne, Washington
Redbud, Eastern
Soapberry

MEDIUM TREES:

American Hornbeam
Amur Corktree
Hophornbeam
Japanese Pagoda Tree
Little Leaf Linden
Ohio Buckeye

LARGE TREES:

Baldcypress
Basswood, American
Beech, American
Blackgum
Coffee Tree, Kentucky
Ginko, Male
Horsechestnut
Linden, Little Leaf
Maple, Red
Maple, Sugar
Oak, Bur
Oak, English
Oak, Red
Oak, White
Sweetgum, Male
Sycamore
Tulip Poplar
Zelkova, Japanese