

10. Removal of leaves from City Trees in the fall is the responsibility of the abutting property owners.

T. City Tree Removal Criteria

1. General

It is the objective of the City of Longview to provide a tree planting program on City property that insures the future existence of the City's tree resource by the planting of as many or more trees than must be removed due to infection, death, hazardous condition, nuisance or construction occurring in the area. In addition a set of tree removal criteria is used to prevent indiscriminate removal. Wildlife habitat is considered as a factor in making all tree management and removal decisions. City Trees may be removed only when one or more of the following criteria are met:

- a. The tree is dead or infected with an epidemic insect or disease that could cause the demise of the tree and where no known control is available and removal is the recommended practice to prevent transmission.
- b. The tree poses a severe safety hazard, including a visual traffic hazard, or is causing structural damage to public or private property that cannot be corrected by pruning, hardscape grinding, transplanting or other hazard removal treatments.
- c. The tree severely interferes with the growth and development of a more desirable tree.
- d. The aesthetic value of the tree is so low or negative that the site is visually enhanced by the tree's removal.
- e. Work improvements required to be made around the tree will kill or render it a hazard.
- f. Requested removal involves a birch street tree infested with aphids for which the property owner adjacent to the parking strip containing the tree petitions the Superintendent of Parks for its removal and agrees to pay the tree replacement fee. Upon approval from the Superintendent, the tree will be removed.

2. Birch Tree Removal Policy

a. Introduction

Tree removal is an acceptable management option in parks and other city property when required for health, safety, and protection of infrastructure.