

COUNCIL POLICY STATEMENT

Policy No. 24
General Subject: Forestry
Specific Subject: Parkway Tree Removal
Date Approved: March 19, 1984
Date Revised: December 19, 2011

PURPOSE

To establish the criteria for removal and replacement of parkway trees by City residents.

RATIONALE

The City acknowledges and values the many benefits that a healthy, well maintained parkway tree population provides. Therefore, indiscriminate and unauthorized parkway tree removal is prohibited. However, the City also acknowledges that there may be instances where residents have legitimate reasons to seek the removal of parkway trees (including but not limited to: uncorrectable problematic structure, inadequate space, damage to infrastructure, or poor vigor) that the City is either unwilling or unable to allocate funds to accomplish.

POLICY STATEMENT

1. Removal of parkway trees, by anyone other than the City, without first having obtained written authorization to do so from the City of Park Ridge, is strictly prohibited. When authorization is granted, it shall be in the form of a Right-of-Way Work Permit issued through the Public Works Administration Office.
2. Each request for authorization to remove a parkway tree will be evaluated by the City Forester based on the specific characteristics of each situation. This will include the general condition of the tree, the type of tree and the public safety conditions in the vicinity of the tree. Authorization will be granted only in instances where the City Forester finds that (1) the undesirable characteristics of the subject tree outweigh the benefits that it provides; and (2) removing and replacing the tree will be of greater long-term benefit to the health and structure of the City's urban forest.
3. When a Permit is issued, the resident shall be required to pay for removal of the entire tree (including the stump and all woody debris) and the complete restoration of the parkway to grass lawn.
4. Any parkway tree authorized to be removed is required to be replaced by planting one parkway shade tree. The resident shall pay for the purchase and planting of a replacement tree, which must be a minimum of two inches in caliper at the time of planting. The species and location of the replacement tree must be approved by the City Forester prior to planting.