

TREE PLANTING, PRUNING AND CARE

The National 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 www.arborday.org, and click on the link "Tree Care Tips" under the Tree Guide.

Missouri's Department of Conservation also provides some tips for tree care on its Website at <http://mdc.mo.gov>. Look under "Land/Water Care" and choose "Homeowners." Then scroll to the bottom of the page for Plant/Tree Management.

How your tree is pruned or trimmed can affect its visual appeal as well as its overall health. If you are considering hiring a tree-trimming company, ask if the company is a member of an arborist association or if they carry professional certification through the International Society of Arboriculture.



WHERE COMMUNITY AND SPIRIT MEET®

For information about this brochure or other publications of the City of Kirkwood, please contact the Public Information Office:
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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.
- Advise City Council on suggested amendments to current City ordinances and practices affecting planting, maintenance and removal of trees on public and private property.



FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT
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STREET TREES & THE URBAN FORESTRY COMMISSION

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 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 au-



thority. The Street Department will remove dead trees and hazardous limbs from trees located on the ROW. However, at this time the City lacks the resources to prune, spray or maintain all trees on the ROW. Homeowners are encouraged to water and otherwise care for trees in the ROW as appropriate and, in particular, to keep branches from obstructing passage on sidewalks.

Planting or Removing Trees in the Public ROW:

Any excavation in the ROW must first begin with a call to 1-800-DIG-RITE so that all utilities in the ROW can be located and marked, to avoid damaging them and to ensure the safety of the workers doing the digging.

Tree Selection for Planting:

The Urban Forestry Commission has developed a *Street Tree Selection Guide* to help residents choose a suitable street tree for planting and to avoid 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 *Guide* can be found on the City's Website at www.kirkwoodmo.org.

Removal of a Healthy Tree:

Removing a healthy tree from the ROW requires the City's permission. Homeowners may request the removal of live public trees in front of their property *at their cost*. Requests may be made to the Urban Forestry Commission. Please call 314-822-5801 or send an email to the Commission at: raglangl@kirkwoodmo.org. The Urban Forestry Commission will review the request and make a recommendation to the Public Works Director, 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.