

FORESTRY

The Forestry Division of the Department of Public Works is responsible for the care and maintenance of all publicly owned vegetation. This includes 32,000 trees, shrubs and flowers located on the street terraces and other public property.

Q & A

Q: How do I know if the tree in front of my house is the City's?

A: All trees that are located within the street right-of-way are cared for by the City of Appleton. The right-of-way is typically the terrace area between the sidewalk and the street. If your lot does not have sidewalk, there is still a set right-of-way (typically 13 to 15 feet from the curb). Please contact the Department of Public Works if you have questions on tree ownership at 832-5580.

Q: Can I prune or remove the tree on the terrace?

A: No. The City of Appleton employs seven (7) Arborists that are certified by the International Society of Arboriculture to maintain the trees. Each tree has certain needs and requirements for maintenance. Our staff will professionally maintain the trees and ensure the long-term health of this valuable asset.

Q: Can I have a tree planted on my terrace?

A: The City of Appleton plants over 1,000 trees each year. Trees are planted in conjunction with construction projects, as replacement for trees that were removed, and as requested by residents. Your requested planting location will be evaluated to determine if a tree or trees will properly fit, and to select the best species for the site.

Q: Do I have a choice of tree species to be planted?

A: The City of Appleton strives for diversity of tree species that are planted throughout the city. There are a range of options for each potential planting location. The City Forester will inspect the location and discuss species and location options with you.

Q: Why does the City prune my small tree so often?

A: Trees require frequent maintenance when they are young to help them develop proper structure and form for long term health. Good tree structure includes a strong central branch and smaller side branches that are gradually removed as the tree matures. Our goal is that the trees will last for several generations. Un-pruned trees develop poor form that often leads to structural failure during storm events. The City prunes trees under 6 inches in diameter every other year to keep them on the right track.

Q: Can you clear my trees that are in the power lines?

A: WE Energies is responsible for the clearing of trees from the power lines. They have a tree contractor that works exclusively for them. The contractor has a set maintenance program that they try to follow in addition to responding to requests and emergency situations. Please contact WE Energies for any power line clearance issues.

Q: Can you take care of my private tree?

A: No. The City of Appleton can only care for trees located within street right-of-way. There are several private tree companies that provide excellent tree care services. Look for a company that is insured and preferably has ISA Certified Arborists on staff.

Q: Can you remove the tree from the terrace in front of my house?

A: Each request for tree work, including tree removal will be inspected. All trees are evaluated for health and safety. Large trees provide a significant value to the City of Appleton. We strive to maintain them as long as they are safe and healthy. Tree removal is usually considered only as a last option.

Q: Can I keep the wood from the tree when it is removed from the terrace?

A: No. The City does not leave the wood on site following removal. The size and condition of much of the wood generated is beyond the scope of what most residents can safely handle. The potential liability for injury while processing the wood is too great for the city to accept. The City utilizes the material generated from removed trees. The wood chips are used for City landscaping projects.

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For more information please visit: www.appleton.org or call 832-5580.