Lexington Street Tree Guidelines

Understanding City Street Tree Requirements, Permitting, Maintenance and Removal Procedures

Street trees benefit you and the community in many ways. They add character to our neighborhoods, cool our homes and cities, clean our air, reduce stormwater runoff, increase property values, attract wildlife, and give us aesthetic beauty.

Property values are generally five to 20 percent higher if there are trees on the property. It makes good sense to properly care for and manage your street trees.

Chapter 17B of the Code of Ordinances, which regulates street trees in Fayette County, is administered by the Urban Forestry Program. This brochure explains the law and how street trees are to be maintained.

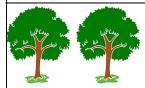
Who is responsible for street trees?

The answer is easy... you are!

Street trees are regulated because they affect road usage. The ownership and maintenance of street trees are the *property owner's responsibility*.

The city does not maintain, plant, or replace street trees.

If a street tree is removed, property owners are required to replace the tree with a suitable species within one year. Violation of the ordinance could mean a citation.



Approved Street Trees





LARGE TREES (over 50 feet tall)

- American elm (Ulmus americana) only Dutch elm disease resistant varieties (i.e. Princeton, Valley Forge, Liberty)
- chinkapin oak (Quercus muehlenbergii)
- ginkgo, fruitless cultivars only (Ginkgo biloba)
- Japanese zelkova (Zelkova serrata)
- lacebark elm (Ulmus parvifolia)
- London planetree (Platanus x acerifolia)
- northern red oak (Quercus rubra)
- scarlet oak (Quercus coccinea)
- shingle oak (Quercus imbricaria)
- Shumard oak (Quercus shumardii)
- swamp white oak (Quercus bicolor)
- sweetgum (Liquidambar styraciflua)
- sugar maple (Acer saccharum)
- sugarberry (Celtis laevigata)
- water oak (Quercus nigra)
- willow oak (Quercus phellos)
- white oak (Quercus alba)

NOTE: Native Species are displayed in **bold**.

MEDIUM TREES (25-50 feet tall)

- black gum (Nyssa sylvatica)
- Carolina silverbell (Halesia tetraptera)
- goldenraintree (Koelreuteria paniculata)
- hardy rubber tree (Eucommia ulmoides)
- hedge maple (Acer campestre)
- hophornbeam (Ostrya virginiana)
- Japanese pagoda tree (Sophora japonica)
- Japanese tree lilac (Syringa reticulata)
- katsuratree (Cercidiphyllum japonicum)
- Kentucky coffeetree; fruitless cultivars only (Gymnocladus dioicus)
- littleleaf linden (Tilia cordata)
- Persian parrotia (Parrotia persica)
- red maple (Acer rubrum)
- sassafras (Sassafras albidum)
- thornless honeylocust (Gleditsia triacanthos var. inermis)
- Turkish filbert (Corylus colurna)
- yellowwood (Cladrastis kentuckea)

This brochure was partially paid for through grants from the following agencies:







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Approved Street Trees (con't)



SMALL TREES (10-15 feet tall)

- Allegheny serviceberry (Amelanchier laevis)
- American hornbeam (Carpinus carolinia)
- amur maple (Acer ginnala)
- crabapple varieties (Malus spp.)
- eastern redbud (Cercis canadensis)
- fringetree (Chionanthus virginicus)
- flowering dogwood (Cornus florida)
- hawthorn varieties (Crataegus spp.)
- kousa dogwood (Cornus kousa)
- tatarian maple (Acer tataricum)

Prohibited Street Trees

- ALL flowering pear (Pyrus calleryana)
- birch varieties (Betula spp.)
- catalpa varieties (Catalpa spp.)
- common apple (Malus pumila)
- ginkgo; female (Ginkgo biloba)
- mulberry varieties (Morus spp.)
- pin oak (Quercus palustrus)
- siberian elm (Ulmus pumila)
- silver maple (Acer saccharinum)
- evergreens

Your neighborhood may qualify for a Neighborhood Matching Grant to assist in a neighborhood street tree planting project.

Talk to your neighborhood association president or the Department of Environmental Quality at (859) 425-2800.

Street Tree Permits

Property owners are required to obtain a permit before removing and/or planting street trees. The FREE permits are available by contacting the Urban Forestry Program, Division of Streets & Roads, 1555 Old Frankfort Pike, Lexington, KY 40504.

Property owners may be eligible to receive financial assistance for street tree removal, stump grinding, and tree planting. Please call 258-3451 for more information.

Call 8-1-1 or 1-800-752-6007 to check for underground utilities. A utilities worker will come to check for underground lines and pipes.

Lexington is a proud



TREE CITY USA community

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Lexington-Fayette Urban County Government ~ Division of Streets, Roads & Forestry 1555 Old Frankfort Pike Lexington, Kentucky 40504 (859) 258-3451 Fax: (859) 253-1014 E-mail: forestry@lexingtonky.gov Website: www.lexingtonky.gov/forestry

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Street Tree Care and Maintenance Tips

Species type and planting guidelines are regulated according to several factors, such as easement width, utility obstruction, desirability of species, and location of nearby intersections and signs.

Street tree planting requirements:

- A FREE permit must first be obtained from the Urban Forestry Program. Call (859) 258-3451 for information.
- A desired species listed in the Division of Planning Planting Manual or approved by the Urban Forestry Program must be planted.
- Suggested spacing between trees: 45 feet (large trees); 35 feet (medium trees); 25 feet (small trees).
- Minimum planting area between sidewalk and street: 8 feet (large tree) and 5 feet (medium tree); this may be altered upon approval of the Urban Forestry Program.
- Trees must be planted at least 50 feet before stop or yield signs, 25 feet from other signs, 10 feet from hydrants.
- Trees planted must be at least 1¾ inches in diameter.

NOTE: Only SMALL trees should be planted underneath power lines

Proper Tree Pruning



The pruning cuts should be made just outside the branch collar. DO NOT TRIM BRANCHES FLUSH TO THE TREE TRUNK OR LIMB.

- Prune limbs to a height of at least 7 feet above sidewalks and 12 feet above streets.
- Remove dead or diseased wood.
- Topping of street trees is PROHIBITED.
- Trees should be properly mulched and watered.
- Most trees under 10 feet do NOT need to be staked. Staking can actually harm the tree.
- Planting and tree maintenance should be performed by arborists certified by the International Society of Arboriculture.

Proper Tree Mulching



The recommended mulching depth is 2 to 4 inches. Spread mulch out to the tree's drip line or beyond. Avoid placing or "coning" mulch against tree trunks.

Piling mulch against the trunk of a tree can stress tissues and lead to insect and disease problems.

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