

Duties of the City Arborist

- Maintains City Forests in a manner that provides safe working and living environments for the general public;
- Trims trees, removes brush, clears hazardous conditions;
- Reviews development plans for compliance of the tree preservation ordinance;
- Receives and addresses complaints about public and private trees;
- Coordinates with other departments on tree planting and maintenance;
- Provides advice to businesses and residents about tree care;
- Works to resolve conflicts related to trees;
- Educates the public through brochures developed by organizations such as National Arbor Day foundation and the International Society of Arboriculture;
- Applies and administers grants to help fund urban forestry projects.

Why do we need a City Arborist?

The City of Auburn recognizes that the community forest is important in advancing the economic and ecological health of the community. By protecting the City's Forests we enhance its historic and aesthetic characteristics. The City also believes that public trees beautify our highways and serve important environmental as well as economic purposes. City Forests release oxygen into the air, absorb carbon dioxide, and reduce energy costs by providing shade in warm weather and protection from cold winter winds.

Tree Facts

- 100 trees remove 5 tons of carbon dioxide per year.
- 100 trees remove 1,000 lbs of pollutants per year, including 400 lbs. of ozone and 300 lbs. of particulates.
- 100 mature trees catch about 100,000 gallons of rainwater per year.
- Strategically placed trees can save up to 30% of air conditioning and 10-25% winter heating costs.
- Large specimen trees can add as much as 10% to property values.
- Consumers spend more time and 12% more for goods in tree-lined commercial districts.



Safety Concerns

- Q.** What do I do if a tree or tree branch is on a power line?
- A.** Contact your local Emergency Services. **Never** touch a tree or tree branch that is in contact with a power line.
- Q.** What do I do if a tree or tree branch is in the roadway?
- A.** Contact your local Emergency Services. Do not attempt to move the tree or tree branch yourself. Call for professional assistance.
- Q.** There are trees and bushes blocking my visibility at an intersection, can you help?
- A.** Yes. Call the Public Works Department and the City Arborist will evaluate the situation to determine the best course of action to eliminate the obstructed view.
- Q.** Who do I call if I have a tree that needs to be cut?
- A.** If the tree is on city property or within the right of way you can call the Public Works Department at 333-6670. The city does not generally cut trees on private property.



Frequently Asked Questions

- Q.** I have trees that have grown into the power lines, will the City cut them?
- A.** No. The City of Auburn works with a private tree removal service that specializes in the removal of dangerous limbs that pose the threat of electrocution. If you have such a situation you may call the City Public Works Department at 333-6670 or your local utility company.
- Q.** Why take the tree(s) down?
- A.** Trees, shrubs, and brush are removed if they pose a hazard to the safety of the public. Emergency situations often times result in the need for tree removal. Post storm cleanup sometimes requires trees to be removed. Yearly maintenance of city trees and trees within the right of way prevents future hazardous situations.
- Q.** Why do you cut the entire branch off?
- A.** To properly remove a tree branch it must be cut at certain points. If a branch was severed in the wrong location by untrained persons the result would be a dead tree within a short period of time. The City Arborist is trained in Tree Preservation.
- Q.** How do you decide upon what trees to cut?
- A.** The City Arborist is trained to look for trees in ill health and trees that cause immediate or potential threat to property or life. The Arborist also looks at the overall health of the surrounding area. Not all trees are “good” - some species are invasive and need to be eradicated or removed because of disease.
- Q.** Doesn't cutting trees down reduce my property value?
- A.** No. Professionally trained arborists understand the value of city forests. They recognize the worth of a tree and the surrounding area. This is why they endeavor to preserve as many and as much of a tree as possible.
- Q.** Does the Arborist profit from tree removal?
- A.** No. The City Arborist is a city employee and in no way benefits from tree removal. The resulting wood from a cut tree is properly handled. The resulting cord wood is sold off at the best price and the proceeds are placed into the City of Auburn's Community Cords Program. This is a program designed to benefit families in need of fuel assistance.
- Q.** Will the City Arborist look at my tree?
- A.** Generally the City Arborist will not consult with residents on trees growing on private property unless that tree is impeding the right of way or causes some hazard to the general public or property. If you have questions regarding your tree and its safe removal you may call the Public Works Department at 333-6670.
- Q.** Why is the City cutting all the trees and bushes in my neighborhood?
- A.** The City Arborist crew will not cut all the trees, bushes, or brush in any area unless they are deemed to be a hazard, potential hazard, or block the city's Right of Way.
- Q.** What is a Public Tree?
- A.** A Public tree is any tree or other woody vegetation which is located within the limits of any public highway situated within the Urban Compact Zone.
- Q.** Will the city notify me if they are going to cut my tree?
- A.** Yes. The residences closest to the tree in question will be notified. If you have questions or issues you may contact the Public Works Department at 333-6670.