



HOA Board of Directors' Meeting – Sep 13, 2023

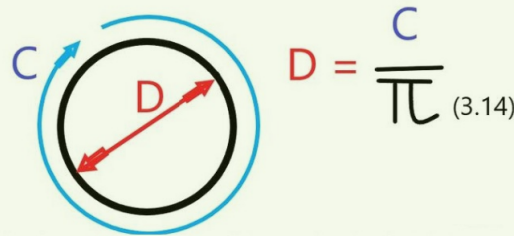
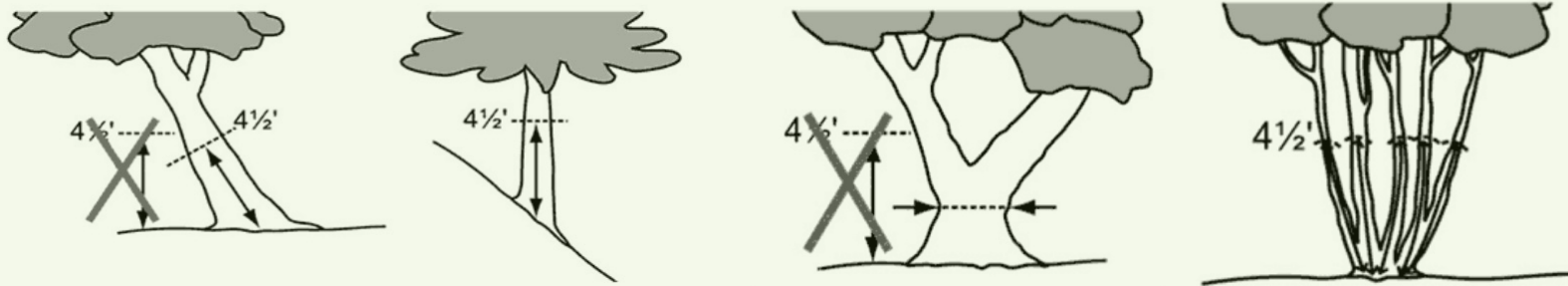
Tree Permits – City of Issaquah



Significant tree :

- Tree at least six inches or greater Diameter at breast height (DBH), or
- An alder or cottonwood tree eight inches or greater DBH, excluding trees listed on the King County Noxious Weed List.

DBH refers to the tree diameter measured at 4.5 feet above the ground.



Previous years:

A tree removal notification form was required for removal of any significant trees. The Notification form has been eliminated since June 1, 2023.

Since June 1st, 2023:

Removal of either landmark or significant trees requires a Tree Permit.

Required documents for tree removal include:

- [General Permit Application](#)
- Site plan showing trees to be removed.
- Replanting plan
- Arborist report is not required in all cases.
- Additional information to support your request, such as photographs.
- Current tree removal permit fee: \$330.75 & no fee for hazardous trees

How many trees can I remove on a property?

There is no limit on number of trees. But each individual tree must meet the approval criteria in IMC18.812.050 .

Approval Criteria.

1. A tree permit may be granted when one or more of the following criteria are met:
 - a. Removal of tree(s) meeting the definition of a nuisance tree.
 - b. Removal of tree(s) for the purpose of replacing dead, dying, or diseased trees. Written recommendations from a qualified professional arborist are required.
 - c. Removal of tree(s) for the purposes of thinning a heavily wooded area where remaining trees may benefit by thinning and the site's overall appearance or function is maintained. Written recommendations from a qualified professional arborist are required.
 - d. Removal of tree(s) providing solar access to buildings incorporating an active solar energy system

Approval Criteria.

2. Tree replacement is required at a ratio not less than one tree replaced for every tree removed and must provide canopy coverage equal to or greater than the tree(s) being removed

3. Additional Permits Required.

a. Tree-related changes to an approved landscape plan, or existing landscaping if no approved landscape plan exists, may require additional review pursuant to the levels of review described in the application review level matrix in IMC 18.204.020.

b. Tree removal shall not create soil disturbance greater than allowed in Chapter 16.26 IMC, Clearing, Grading, and Stormwater Management; or if soil disturbance is greater, a site work permit will be required.

Please keep in mind that Landmark Trees and Hazardous Trees have their own approval criteria.

Can I obtain a single permit to remove multiple trees on a lot, tract, or parcel?

The city will accept one application per Lot, Tract, or Parcel to remove multiple trees.

Can I remove hazardous protected and nonprotected trees prior to obtaining a permit under emergency conditions?

Removal could occur under the Emergency Removal provisions in IMC 18.812.050(D).

What can I do if tree roots are encroaching on my property?

This is a neighbor-to-neighbor issue. The general rule is that an owner can cut roots and branches that are encroaching on his/her property up to the boundary line at his/her own expense.

If the tree straddles the property boundary, he/she has a duty to not kill or injure the tree. The trimming owner is responsible for disposing of the trimmed parts of the tree.

What activities are considered as acceptable pruning activities?

1. The following activities are considered acceptable pruning activities:

- a. Canopy cleaning: the removal of dead, dying, diseased, crowded, weakly attached, low-vigor branches, and water sprouts from a tree's canopy.
- b. Canopy raising: the removal of the lower branches of a tree to provide a height of up to seven feet for pedestrian clearance and up to 16 feet for vehicular clearance or such other increased height as deemed appropriate for clearance by the City Arborist.

2. Class IV (Crown Reduction Pruning) may only be done for the following reasons:

- a. Branches are interfering with utility lines.
- b. Significant crown dieback has occurred.
- c. Storm damage or prior incorrect pruning requires correction.

3. In no case is topping (the severe reduction of branches without consideration of the specifications for cutting back) allowed.

What activities are considered as acceptable pruning activities?

4. No more than 25 percent of the total canopy may be removed through canopy thinning
5. If illegal tree topping has occurred, the property owner must have a certified arborist develop and implement a five-year pruning schedule in addition to monetary fines and required tree replacement.
6. Unless greater pruning is approved by the city and is necessary for the health and safety of the tree, excessive pruning is prohibited and is a violation of this Code.
7. An irrigation method approved by the city must be provided to all newly planted protected trees through an establishment period.

“Tree canopy” means the layer of tree leaves, branches and stems that cover the ground when viewed from above.

What activities are considered as acceptable pruning activities?

8. For the tree pruning in the steep slope NGPE, the request will need to identify why the pruning is necessary from an arborist's perspective and the removal of branches is needed for the health of the forest.

You can only receive approval for pruning if the work is necessary for the viability of the trees and surrounding forest health, and that there will be no impact to the slope conditions, or if the slope conditions warrant the removal to provide geotechnical stability.

In addition to an arborist report, an assessment from a geotechnical engineer may be necessary to confirm any proposal will not impact the stability of the slope.

For tree-related questions, please contact:

TreeQ@issaquahwa.gov

