



CITY OF THE DALLES
Department of Public Works
1215 West 1st Street
The Dalles, Oregon 97058

PRESS RELEASE

DEADLINE: February 26, 2024

PURPOSE: EARLY SPRING PRUNING FOR SAFE STREETS

CONTACT: City of The Dalles Public Works Department (541) 296-5401

FOR RELEASE: IMMEDIATELY

This year the City is asking citizens to make a special effort to prevent unsightly damage to street trees that have low hanging branches. Trimming branches before collision breaks branches is healthier for trees. Tree trimming also prevents damage to tall vehicles like package delivery vans, recreational vehicles, garbage trucks and school buses.

Property owners or occupants are responsible to care for trees in The Dalles. City staff only takes care of City-owned trees in the Downtown Area. When branches block safe passage, the property owner or occupant is responsible to reduce the hazard. This is the case whether the tree is on their property or on the right-of-way next to their property.

The owner or occupant of any property is responsible to trim trees and shrubs to meet requirements set out in any chapter of The Dalles Municipal Code. No owner or person in charge of property shall allow noxious vegetation to be on their property or in the right-of-way adjacent to their property (The Dalles Municipal Code 5.24.030).

The Dalles Municipal Code 11.20.020 regulating street trees requires all trees growing near a sidewalk, street or alley to be trimmed so that the limbs and branches are not less than 9 feet above the sidewalk and 14 feet above the street. These trim requirements allow safe passage for pedestrians on sidewalks as well as garbage trucks, tall delivery vans and school buses traveling on streets and alleys.

The Dalles Municipal Code 5.24.020 requires vegetation that impairs the view of a public street or impairs the view of any traffic control device to be controlled or removed. These trim requirements allow vehicles to see oncoming traffic and obey traffic signs.

Early spring is a good time of year to trim trees and shrubs. Check the height of trees and shrubs that extend over sidewalks, streets and alleys. Trim deciduous plants before they leaf out to maintain safe clearances while preserving the beauty of mature plants.

Proper pruning is important for the health of your trees and shrubs. The Arbor Day Foundation offers a series of "Ask an Arborist" how-to videos to show you the ABCs of pruning. Other resources can be found on the internet or by consulting professionals.

According to the Occupational Safety and Health Administration the most common tree trimming accidents are electrocution, falling from a tree or being struck by trees or limbs.

When in doubt about safely trimming trees, hire a professional arborist.

For more information about trimming trees and shrubs for traffic safety visit the City website thedalles.org/transportation or contact the Public Works Department at (541) 296-5401.

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