

CITY OF WOODLAND COUNCIL POLICIES

CHAPTER 4 – NATURAL RESOURCES

POLICY 4-3 – ROADSIDE MOWING AND ROUTINE/EMERGENCY TREE AND BRUSH REMOVAL

LANDSCAPING WITHIN THE PUBLIC RIGHT-OF-WAY

The maintenance of all landscaping that is located within the public right-of-way shall be the responsibility of the abutting property owner. The abutting property owner shall be responsible for removal of any tree or limb that is deemed hazardous to the public.

ROADSIDE MOWING

The City may decide to hire a Contractor to complete roadside mowing during the growing season.

TREE REMOVAL AND BRUSH TRIMMING

Trees are removed for a number of reasons including death of the tree, structural defect, declining health, etc.

Each spring, the City's Arborist should mark all hazardous trees located within the City's right-of-way, and the City shall notify abutting property owners those trees that have been deemed hazardous and must be removed within 60 days of being notified.

In some cases, trees that require removal have power lines in close proximity to parts of the tree. In this case, the removal of the tree must be coordinated with the appropriate utility, which can add to the length of time required to affect the removal of the tree.

Trees deemed hazardous and have been removed do not need to be replaced.

Healthy trees and brush located within the right-of-way that pose a sight vision problem or interfere with snow plowing operations, shall be removed by the City at the discretion of the City. To provide increased sight vision and safe snow plowing, trees and brush may also be cut beyond the right-of-way if deemed necessary by the City, with the permission of the landowner. The property owner will be given written notice, as a courtesy, of significant tree removal by the City.

Trees are also trimmed by the various utility companies, or their subcontractors to minimize problems caused by branches rubbing on energized lines.

The City does not regulate the cutting and trimming in and around power lines by utility companies. Residents concerned with this maintenance should be directed to the utility company.

EMERGENCY TREE REMOVAL

- 1) That portion of a fallen tree or branch in the city right-of-way shall be removed from the street as soon as possible by the city.
- 2) To facilitate the movement of traffic, the fallen tree or branch may be pushed temporarily to the side of the roadway.
- 3) The abutting property owner will assume responsibility for disposal of the wood resting in the right-of-way and on private.

PROCEDURE TO REPORT A DOWNED TREE OR POTENTIALLY HAZARDOUS TREE

- 1) Contact the City Clerk at (952-358-9940) or after hours Police Dispatch (952-258-5321).
- 2) A Police Officer will inspect the tree and surrounding location and place appropriate safety devices around the area until such time the tree can be cleared and the road re-opened. If the police determine that electrical lines are also down or wrapped in the tree/limbs. The Police Officer or City staff will contact Xcel Energy immediately.
- 3) Staff will contact the designated tree contractor to remove the tree:

Per Agreement, must respond to all emergency called within 2 hours of notification 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

- 4) At the discretion of the City staff, public works staff may be called to push the fallen tree to the side of the road.