

POLICY 5.02
BOULEVARD TREE MAINTENANCE

1.00 POLICY

1.01 The City of Lakeville finds that having a uniform boulevard tree maintenance policy serves to protect the City's investment in its roads, to maintain roadways for pedestrian and vehicular traffic, to maintain general tree health and, where feasible, preserve aesthetically desirable natural areas.

2.00 Where maintenance will take place

2.01 Annually the Streets Division coordinates the pruning of boulevard trees in one of six districts throughout the City. Boulevard trees are considered trees that fall in the City's right-of-way. Property owners will be notified at least 7 days before pruning occurs.

3.00 Optimum maintenance time

3.01 Boulevard tree trimming is done during the winter months when most trees are dormant; this minimizes the stress to the tree and reduces the incidence of disease transmission.

4.00 Reasons for maintenance

4.01 Branches are pruned throughout the tree to remove unhealthy, broken, or rubbing limbs to improve the overall health and symmetry of the tree. This annual pruning program is also necessary to provide safe sight lines and allow sufficient overhead clearance for delivery trucks, City vehicles, and maintenance equipment. City staff trims trees to allow for a 15 feet minimum clearance height and shapes trees for tree health and aesthetic purposes.

5.00 What trees may be maintained by the City

5.01 The right-of-way extends approximately 15 feet from the back of the curb; however, maintenance to some trees is not limited to boulevard trees. Any privately owned trees with limbs or branches affecting the street signs, street lights, traffic signals, sight lines, street trails and sidewalks of the road right-of-way may be removed by the City of Lakeville with the property owner's consent. If a property owner chooses not to comply with the request, the City can commence a nuisance abatement procedure.

5.02 City staff will not prune branches or remove trees where a conflict with a power line or overhanging utility may occur.