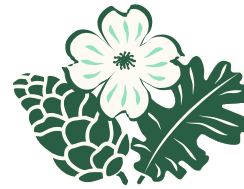# Public Tree Code

MILWAUKIE URBAN FOREST
Growing Trees
Growing Community

Ensuring the success of public trees in Milwaukie

Why does the city care about trees?

Trees shade and cool the community on hot summer days, reduce sound and air pollution, and provide habitat and ecosystem benefits. Trees increase property values and contribute to the aesthetic valued in Milwaukie, 'The Dogwood City of the West.'

Trees are green infrastructure and are highlighted as important community assets in the Milwaukie 2040 Vision, the Climate Action Plan, and the Comprehensive Plan.

Public tree codes help the city keep trees healthy so we can reach our urban canopy goals.

How do I know if a tree is on public or private property?

Confirm a tree's location by using the mapping tools at **milwaukieoregon.gov/maps.**

Milwaukie's public tree code applies to all public trees with a diameter at breast height (DBH) of 2" or more within city limits.

4.5'

DBH is the standard for measuring trees. DBH refers to the tree diameter measured at 4.5' above the ground.

What does the public tree code require?

A resident or business looking to remove, plant, or perform major pruning (removal of more than 20% tree canopy) on a public tree must first apply for a permit through the city. This permit ensures that a healthy tree is not being removed without extraordinary circumstances.

If a permit is approved, a public notice period and replanting is required. Newly planted trees must be a species that is listed on the city's approved street tree list. Trees must be at least 1.5" DBH (if deciduous) or at least 5' tall (if coniferous) at the time of planting.

What are public trees?

Public trees include trees located in parks and on public lands. This includes street trees located in or partially in the right-of-way (ROW), the area between boundary lines of a public way, sometimes adjacent to private property.
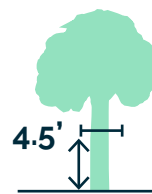
CITY OF **MILWAUKIE**

What about unhealthy trees or trees impacting infrastructure?

Trees that are dead or dying as determined by an International Society of Arboriculture (ISA) Certified Arborist, are on the State of Oregon Noxious Weed List, or are having an adverse effect on nearby infrastructure that cannot be mitigated may qualify for a removal permit. For the full list of approval standards, read Milwaukie Municipal Code 16.32.026.
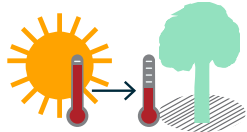
What does a public tree permit cost?

The total cost of a public tree permit includes:

- **The permit application fee - $50.00**
  - No permit fee for planting new trees

- **A healthy tree removal fee**
  - Cost varies depending on the DBH of the tree
  - For all fees, review the master fee schedule at **milwaukieoregon.gov/trees**

Benefits of Trees in a Changing Climate: Trees have many fuctions that are vital for the planet and humans facing the effects of climate change

Economic benefits: Trees raise property values and decrease utility bills.

Reduce Temperature: Tree canopies block sunlight, reducing the temperature by 20-45 degrees Fahrenheit* As populations become more urbanized, trees can make cities more livable and reduce the need for air conditioning.

Clean the air: Leaves and bark absorb carbon dioxide and other pollutants and release oxygen. Absorbing greenhouse gases helps fight global warming.

Maintain biodiversity: Trees are habitat for animals, insects and plants, and vital for biodiversity. Ecosystems with high biodiversity can better cope with and fight climate change and provide ecosystem services such as fresh water, pollination of crops, and medicines for humans.

Control Water: Leaves and roots slow down the flow of water, reducing the risk of flooding, erosion, and landslides in severe weather events.

Source: KAP DESIGN; the graphic was modified to add the additional info

*https://www.epa.gov/heatislands/using-trees-and-vegetation-reduce-heat-islands#1

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