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Alderman, 47th Ward



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City Trees Service Requests – Call 311

Always give the closest building address to the 311 operator. For corner properties, if the tree is on the other street than the official address, mention to the operator what the other street is. If there are several trees on the parkway, specify as succinctly as possible the exact location(s) of the tree(s) to be trimmed. Note that the backlog for tree trimming could be up to eight weeks during the summer. Tree planting usual occurs in the spring and fall on a first-requested-first-served basis..

TRIMMING: Please specify the *type* of trim when talking with 311.

1. Trim dead branches only
2. Trim up low branches
3. Trim away from garage
4. Trim away from street light
5. Trim damaged branches
6. Trim away from building (tree must be touching a part of building)
7. Trim away from roof (tree must be touching a part of roof)
8. Thin (to help get more sunlight for the grass/plants below)
9. Trim “Water sprouts” (small branches at tree’s base or trunk)
10. General trim (does one or any of the above as needed)
11. Trim away from signs (e.g. stop signs, street signs, business signs)

REMOVAL: Parkway trees are removed only if they are deemed half-dead by the Bureau of Forestry. Tree stumps are usually removed when the replacement tree is planted

PLANTING: The reverse side of this sheet lists the trees suitable for parkway planting (availability based on local nurseries current stock). Note the clearance requirements from typical objects found on parkways:

Existing Trees	25 feet
Streetlights	12 feet
Traffic Signals	30 feet
Stop Signs	20 feet
Fire hydrants	5 feet
Manholes	5 feet
Driveway	10 feet
Alley, near side	20 feet
Alley, far side	10 feet
Driveway-residential, near and far sides	10 feet
Driveway-commercial, near side	20 feet
Driveway-commercial, far side	10 feet
Viaducts	50 feet

Also note that trees cannot be planted under the canopy of an existing tree.

Urban Trees for Chicago Parkways (from City of Chicago Bureau of Forestry)

Common Name	Notes
Bald Cypress	Deciduous (but looks like evergreen), fine leaves, single straight trunk
Black Alder	persistent nutlets
Black Locust	white fragrant flowers, bluish-green leaves
Buckeye	cluster of white flowers
Catalpa	cluster of white fragrant flowers, big leaves, cigar like capsules
Chokecherry	white flowers, emerging green leaves turn purple, ornamental
Corktree	corky bark, fall color, fruit persists over winter
Dawn Redwood	Deciduous (but looks like evergreen), fine leaves, single straight trunk
Dogwood	White-petaled flowers, understory
Elm	Hybrid, shade tree
Ginkgo	fan shaped leaves
Hackberry	Fast growing, broadly globose crown, lustrous green leaves
Hawthorn	small white flowers, red berries wildlife food, understory tree
Honeylocust	small leaves
Hornbeam	Columnar shape, understory
Horsechestnut	cluster of white flowers
Ironwood	A slow growing tree, with very hard wood
Katsuratree	Emerging red leaves turn to bluish green, good fall color
Kentucky Coffeetree	Very hardy tree, fruit pods, looks like a big twig when young
Linden	small white bell-shaped flowers, fragrant
Maple	Shade tree, fall color
Mountain Ash	white clusters of flowers, orange berries
Oak	acorns, leaves persists over winter, brown fall color, slow grower
Pagodatree	small creamy white-yellow fragrant flowers
Pear	white flowers, ornamental, fall color
Plane Tree	large Maple-like leaves, mottled bark
Poplar	fast growing, strong central leader
Redbud	small pinkish-purplish flowers, understory tree
River Birch	exfoliating bark (needs wide parkway)
Serviceberry	white flowers, red berries wildlife food, understory tree
Sweetgum	star shaped leaf, spiny ball-like fruit, fall color
Tree Lilac	showy white flowers, ornamental
Turkish Filbert	corky bark
Zelkova	similar to an Elm, fall color

For more information on these and other trees, see <http://woodyplants.nres.uiuc.edu/> and http://egov.cityofchicago.org/webportal/COCWebPortal/COC_EDITORIAL/City%20of%20Chicago%20Urban%20Tree%20Planting%20List.pdf