



GF PARKS FORESTRY DEPARTMENT TREE REMOVAL POLICY

1060 47th Avenue South | PO Box 12429 | Grand Forks, ND 58201-2429 | 701.746.2750 | gfparks.org

TREE REMOVAL POLICY (UPDATED 10/18/2021)

The GF Park District Forestry Department manages the trees on the city easement between the city street and the public sidewalk (berm) which comprises a large portion of our urban forest. Trees in our urban forest provide us with many benefits including shade, reduced cooling costs, clean air to breathe and decreases the amount of stormwater and pollutants that reach our local water ways. A goal in managing our forest is have as many healthy trees along the boulevards as we have adequate space available for trees to mature. Unfortunately, not all trees in our urban forest are found to be healthy and the Forestry Department will remove trees on the berm as necessary on a case-by-case basis.

This policy is to help clarify when we WILL remove a tree and when we WILL NOT remove a tree from the berm.

THE GRAND FORKS PARK DISTRICT **WILL REMOVE** A TREE IF:

TREE POSES A SAFETY HAZARD:

(Tree Risk Assessments are to be completed by a Grand Forks Park District employee that holds a valid International Society of Arboriculture (ISA) Certification using ISA's Tree Risk Rating Assessment guidelines.)

- **Extreme Risk:** After completion of the Tree Risk Assessment trees deemed Extreme Risk shall have the area considered hazardous marked so the public is aware of the hazard and the tree shall be removed within 24 hours.
- **High Risk:** After completion of the Tree Risk Assessment trees deemed High Risk shall have the area considered hazardous marked so the public is aware of the hazard and the tree shall be removed within 72 hours.
- **Moderate Risk:** After completion of the Tree Risk Assessment trees deemed Moderate Risk shall have mitigation steps taken, monitored, or removed based on the Assessor's recommendation in accordance with ISA guidelines.
- **Low Risk:** After completion of the Tree Risk Assessment trees deemed Low Risk shall have mitigation steps taken based on the Assessor's recommendation. Unless otherwise recommended by the Assessor or requested by the property owner (adjacent to the Public Right-of-Way tree), Low Risk trees are monitored during regular pruning cycles.

TREE IS IN POOR HEALTH OR LOCATION:

EXAMPLES OF A TREE IN POOR HEALTH INCLUDE (BUT NOT LIMITED TO) A TREE WHERE:

- Over ½ the canopy of the tree is dead.
- The main central leader of a young tree is dead.
- The root system has been damaged, causing the tree to decline.
- The tree doesn't have adequate space to grow next to other trees and nearby buildings.

TREE IS DISEASED OR INFESTED AND THREATENS URBAN FOREST WHICH REQUIRES PROACTIVE REMOVAL TO ERADICATE OR SLOW THE SPREAD TO OTHER TREES:

EXAMPLE OF DISEASES AND INFESTATIONS INCLUDE (BUT NOT LIMITED TO):

- Dutch Elm Disease (**Only effects Elm Trees**)
- Emerald Ash Borer (**NOT** found in Grand Forks Currently)

THE GRAND FORKS PARK DISTRICT **WILL NOT REMOVE** A TREE IF:

TREE IS A NUISANCE:

EXAMPLES OF A TREE NUISANCE ARE (BUT NOT LIMITED TO):

- Fruit, leaves, flowers, insects, dripping sap, provides too much shade, unwanted tree or species, tree roots lifting sidewalk, squirrels, birds.

Questions or to REQUEST A TREE INSPECTION of a berm tree contact:
Sean Lee, Forestry Operations Manager | 701-787-2815 | slee@gfparks.org