

# City of Madison Streets & Urban Forestry Division

ONBOARDING VIDEO #5

Frequently Asked Questions – Urban Forestry

March 2023



## *What are the benefits of an urban forest?*

- Help reduce heat island effects
- Help improve air quality
- Help stormwater run-off management
- Help lower homeowner's cooling costs in the summer
- Provide habitat for wildlife
- Help improve physical and mental health, and generally improve the quality of life.

*They're redoing the road near my home and I'm worried about the trees.*

Urban Forestry is part planning process for Engineering projects, and they act as an advocate to keep the trees in place and add trees where possible.



# *The right of way tree is causing problems. Will Urban Forestry remove it?*

Forestry *will not* remove trees if

- it is disrupting sewer lines,
- disturbing sidewalks or driveways,
- hampering sunlight for a garden or solar panels,
- homeowner preference:
  - too many leaves to manage,
  - aesthetics
- and many other reasons



# *Why are trees removed?*

- Dead
- Dying
- Unsafe conditions

# *What's the status of the emerald ash borer?*



Pre-emptive removals are done.

Treatment ongoing.

Will investigate calls of concerns about a tree being infested.

# *The city took down a tree in front of my house and the stump is still there. What's going on?*

The stump will be removed. Process can take a long time.

- Balancing priorities
- Equipment & staffing
- Locating underground utilities
- Depends on when tree is removed, too.



# *Will the city plant canopy trees?*



- The city's tree canopy goal is 40% - in other words, if seen from overhead while trees are fully leafed out, the goal is to only see 60% of the ground.
- Yes, large trees creating a wide canopy will be planted where it is appropriate to do so.
- Planting canopy trees in places with overhead wires is unhealthy for the tree and possibly deadly for people who have to trim them.



*The trees on my street have never been pruned. Why?*



For trees planted within the last 10 years, Forestry aims to prune them every three to five years.

For older trees, the goal is to prune them once ever 10 years.

# *Why can't I just trim the right-of-way trees myself?*

MGO 10.101

Doing the work, but doing it the wrong way can make a problem worse than solving it.

Our arborists are professionals trained in the proper maintenance of trees, and will fix the issues safely the first time.



# *There's something wrong with the city tree. Help!*

Urban Forestry responds to calls for service as soon as possible.

- <http://www.cityofmadison.com/ReportaProblem>
- 608-266-4816
  
- Trimming branches to get away from the roof.
- Dangling / hanging limbs
- Lower branches blockings sidewalks or driveways.
- Hornets nests and wasp nests. If the nest is low or poses some other hazard.



# *There's a tree emergency! What do I do?*



During normal business hours (7:00am to 3:00pm) contact Urban Forestry directly.

After hours should contact the Dane County non-emergency number so the on-call arborist can respond.



# *My neighbor has a tree that's in rough shape. What do I do?*

Urban Forestry supports Building Inspection for these concerns.

Forestry does not inspect private trees on their own.

BI would then issue an order to the homeowner that has the problem tree. And a private service would be needed to perform any required work.

# *Can a resident choose the tree that's planted on their terrace?*

No.

Trained city staff ensure the correct tree is planted so it can thrive in the limited right of way space.

Have to factor in other tree species nearby, overhead wires, and other concerns.

To create a diverse canopy, arborists strive to have 3 different tree species per block; and want no more than 30% of the same family; 20% of the same genus, and 10% of the same species citywide.





**Charlie Romines (Streets Superintendent)**

608-266-4680

[cromines@cityofmadison](mailto:cromines@cityofmadison)

**Craig Klinke (Interim City Forester)**

608-266-4816

[cklinke@cityofmadison.com](mailto:cklinke@cityofmadison.com)

[forestry@cityofmadison.com](mailto:forestry@cityofmadison.com)

**Bryan Johnson (PIO)**

608-267-2626

[byjohnson@cityofmadison.com](mailto:byjohnson@cityofmadison.com)

[streets@cityofmadison.com](mailto:streets@cityofmadison.com)

**[www.cityofmadison.com/Forestry](http://www.cityofmadison.com/Forestry)**