



## UNIVERSITY CITY TREE GUIDELINES

### TREE CITY USA

Outstanding efforts in forestry recognized

U. City is home to more than 30,000 trees.

Since 1980, U. City has consistently been named a **Tree City USA** by the National Arbor Day Foundation (NADF) to honor the City's commitment to its community forest.

U. City is also the recipient of a **Tree City USA Growth Award** in recognition of environmental improvement and higher levels of tree care in its communities. Significant progress was noted in areas of education, community involvement, partnerships, planning and management.

**Tree City USA** programs are sponsored by NADF in cooperation with the National Association of State Foresters and the U.S. Department of Agriculture Forest Service.

#### ORDINANCE NO. 6670

#### CHAPTER 12.08: TREES & SHRUBS

In November, 2006, the University City Municipal Code was amended to establish new regulations on trees and shrubs on both public and private property.

This brochure provides answers to the most frequently asked questions about the Tree Ordinance.

Further information can be provided by the City Forester (*see below*).



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# UNIVERSITY CITY TREE ORDINANCE FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

## WHY DOES UNIVERSITY CITY NEED A TREE ORDINANCE?

Trees in our community provide shade for streets, parks and homes. Trees and shrubs beautify neighborhoods, raise property values and reduce energy costs. Cities that maintain a healthy tree population can take pride in the quality of life in their neighborhood.

## DO I NEED A PERMIT TO PRUNE OR CUT DOWN A TREE ON MY PROPERTY?

You *do not* need a permit to prune a tree on your property. However, a Forest Activity permit is needed for Development Projects only.

## WHAT IS A DEVELOPMENT PROJECT?

A Development Project is a building activity requiring a special use permit such as site plan review, conditional use permit or planned development permit.

This definition *excludes* additions to single or two-family dwellings and the addition of structures such as decks, porches, sheds, garages, fences and pools.



## WHO HAS JURISDICTION OVER CITY STREET AND PARK TREES?

The City controls all trees, shrubs and other plantings in public areas within the city limits, and has the power to maintain them as the City determines. Jurisdiction also extends to private trees under the Forestry Activity Permit and in other cases that are outlined in the Tree Ordinance

## WHAT ARE THE DUTIES OF A PROPERTY OWNER?

- ☞ It is your responsibility to prune any limbs from trees growing on your private property overhanging any street or right-of-way.
- ☞ Trees must be pruned so that branches do not obstruct light from streetlights in any intersection.
- ☞ Minimum clearance of overhanging trees onto public areas shall be nine (9) feet except as designated by the City Forester.
- ☞ Diseased, decayed or dead trees must be removed so as not to endanger persons or adjacent property.
- ☞ No tree limb which has been pruned or fallen from a private tree can be left on public property and must be removed at the expense of the property owner.
- ☞ Failure to respond to hazardous or diseased trees on your property may cause the City Forester to issue you a notice of removal. If this is not successful, the City Forester is authorized to remove the tree or limb and charge you for the service which can be a lien upon the property until paid.



## HOW CAN I GET MORE INFORMATION ON THE TREE ORDINANCE?

The Tree Manual was written to accompany the U. City Tree Ordinance. This technical manual helps to explain various sections of the Tree Ordinance, lists of approved tree species, and contains examples of surveys and permits needed under the Tree Ordinance.

## A copy of the Tree Ordinance and Tree Manual may be obtained by:

1. **Downloading** the document(s) from The city's website: [www.ucitymo.org](http://www.ucitymo.org) (click: Parks, Recreation, Forestry), or
2. **Calling** the City Forester, James Crowe: 314.505.8619, or
3. **E-mailing:** [jcrowe@ucitymo.org](mailto:jcrowe@ucitymo.org).