

# Tree Removal



**The following guidelines were established to support efforts to maintain a healthy and plentiful urban forest as well as increase canopy cover for a greener Norwalk.**

Only trees meeting the following criteria are considered for removal:

- Diseased, dying, unstable condition, or dead trees
- Trees creating major concrete or asphalt damage (sidewalks, curb and gutter) and whose roots cannot be pruned due to affecting the stability of the tree that would result in a safety hazard
- Outside of the above criteria, trees may be removed if there are other extenuating circumstances that can only be mitigated with removal. Please note that nuisance conditions alone relating to tree dropping leaves/seeds and/or fallen branches do not qualify for removal.

All requests for tree removal are reviewed by the City of Norwalk Public Services Department. The City's Trees/Greenscape Supervisor and/or Tree Trimmer will inspect the tree to make a determination. Requestor will be notified of the City's decision via a door notice and/or phone call, within 30 working days. In lieu of tree removal, the City may address tree related complaints/issues by performing trimming services, root pruning, concrete/asphalt repair or replacement when deemed necessary.

## **The Importance of Trees**

Trees are an important part of every community. Our streets, parks, playgrounds and yards are lined with trees that create a peaceful, pleasing environment. They increase our quality of life by bringing natural elements into urban settings. Trees in urban areas can deflect the sunlight which reduces the heat island effect caused by pavement and buildings. The leaves on trees absorb and filter the sun's radiant energy, keeping things cool in the summer so that we can gather under the cool shade they provide during outdoor activities with family and friends.

Trees also provide shade to landscape which helps reduce water needs, increase water quality, slow stormwater runoff, helps recharge groundwater and reduce soil erosion.

Trees improve air quality by removing dust and other pollutants like carbon monoxide, sulfur dioxide and nitrogen dioxide and trees take in carbon dioxide to produce the oxygen we breathe.

