City of Roseburg Tree Program

Introduction

As the 'Timber Capital of the Nation', the City's Tree Program seeks to further engage Roseburg's citizens with the trees where they live. Trees function as a community amenity that helps soften the edges of the urban landscape. They lend a sense of beauty and stability to a community that a barren landscape cannot match. Trees help provide positive solutions to problems that plague urban environments. Trees temper climate and air quality. They take carbon dioxide and other pollutants from the air and give oxygen in return. Trees are necessary to help curb noise pollution, glare and soil erosion. Often, long-time residents of a community can link a memory or an event to a specific tree, and in this way trees function as an element of a community's history as well. The presence of a varied and high quality urban forest is often linked to a community's liveability and ultimately to property values.

Trees and urban infrastructure – sidewalks, buildings, curbs, streets, etc, - can and must coexist. This usually means tailoring the shape and species of a tree to the limits of the planting site. Too often trees are planted in situations poorly matched to the tree's natural requirements. This leads to complaints among those who live and work around the trees and to poor survivability for the tree.

Permits

- **Planting:** A permit is required five (5) business days prior to planting any tree within a public right-of-way. This will serve as a check for potential problems such as leaving debris in the right-of-way or planting a tree in the wrong location and as a record of the planting. It is the permit applicant's responsibility to request the location of utilities (utility locate, 8-1-1), in the project area to avoid damaging underground utilities. A list of prohibited trees is available at City Hall and on the City's website (www.cityofroseburg.com).
- **Pruning:** A permit is required at least five (5) business days prior to removing any limb greater than 3" in diameter from any tree within a public right-of-way. The application must specify the location, number and type of tree to be pruned, the reason(s) for pruning and the method of pruning planned. These permits must be executed within 30 days of issuance. Trees shall be pruned to ISA Best Management Practices Pruning standards. Please note that topping or mutilating public trees in Roseburg is unlawful.
- **Removal:** A permit is required five (5) business days prior to removing any tree within a public right-of-way. It is the responsibility of the applicant to request a utility locate to avoid damaging underground utilities. All tree removals must include stump removal and grade re-establishment. Removal requests must show evidence that:
    - The tree poses a safety hazard to pedestrian or vehicle traffic or threatens public utility service; or
    - The tree poses a safety hazard to structures; or

- The tree prevents entering or exiting a lot or parcel, or prevents the development of a lot or parcel or the physical use of it; or
- The tree is diseased or insect infested and as such poses a hazard to people, structures, improvements or other trees; or
- The tree is so weakened by age, storm, fire, ice or other injury as to cause a danger to people or property; or
- The tree is dead; or
- As may be deemed necessary by the City of Roseburg Public Works Director.

These permits must be executed within 30 calendar days of issuance.

*Stumps: The City of Roseburg Tree Ordinance requires that upon tree removal, all stumps in the public right-of-way be removed to one foot below grade. This requires no permit, but 811 – *One Call Utility Locates* – must be called at least 2 working days prior to beginning.

The City's Role in Street Tree Maintenance

The City's role in the actual maintenance of street trees around the community is limited. The Public Works Department is responsible for the City-planted trees within the boundaries of the designated downtown area, as well as trees within City parks.

As per the Roseburg Municipal Code Chapter 4.12, street trees located in the public way are the responsibility of the abutting property owner. The City may require a property owner prune, trim or remove a tree or stump as per the Roseburg Municipal Code. Trees within the right of way and/or public way shall be pruned to ISA Best Management Practices Pruning Standards.

Property owners are notified by mail in such instances, and have 14 calendar days to apply for a permit to remedy the situation. Should a property owner fail to respond, the City may remove, trim or prune the tree or stump and assess the cost plus an administrative fee to the abutting property owner.

Downtown Street Tree Program: The downtown street tree program is a more specialized approach to urban forestry, seeking a certain aesthetic effect along with ensuring public safety. Trees within these boundaries are maintained by the City. The designated downtown area is identified within the Tree Program as Exhibit "A".

The Right Tree in the Right Place

Not all trees are suited for the special demands that streets and rights of way place on them. Pavement, traffic, air pollution and overhead obstructions all place stress on trees, and in turn the tree has an impact on those things. Because a tree is capable of living for many years, considerations must be given to the special demands of each planting site. The key is to plant

the right tree in the right place. Different trees are recommended for different planting situations on the basis of size, branching habit and the potential for damage to the surrounding pavement, water lines, sewers and/or utilities. A list of 'Prohibited Street Trees' is available at the City of Roseburg Public Works office and on the City of Roseburg website at www.cityofroseburg.org. The City of Roseburg reserves the right to approve or reject tree species prior to planting of the trees within the City right-of-way and/or public way.

Basic Tree Shapes   There are several basic tree shapes. Some are more suitable for a particular location than others.

Oval: An upright tree shape is good for a street tree, as it will not impede vehicle traffic. A basic concern here should be overall height restrictions due to overhead lines.

Pyramidal: Many trees that start out columnar grow into a pyramidal shape as the lower branches grow and begin to droop. Conifers generally are not appropriate as street trees due to their low limbs limiting sight clearance for drivers and pedestrians. Examples- European Hornbeam, Aristocrat Pear.

Columnar: Columnar trees are often chosen for street tree plantings due to space limitations. Sometimes these trees require special pruning when young to ensure proper branch structure and strength when they are mature. Examples- Armstrong Red Maple, Olmstead Norway Maple.

Rounded: Smaller rounded trees are good choices under utility lines. Some larger rounded trees have multiple tops that can be pruned to form a "V" around power lines. Examples- small Norway Maples, Crabapples, Japanese Snowbell.

V – Shaped: A vase shape is a favored form because the branches arch to form a canopy over streets and sidewalks. Examples- Zelkova, Kwanzan Cherry.

The following diagrams illustrate some common planting situations. Figure 1 shows a small tree under power lines planted in a relatively narrow parking strip. Good suggestions, depending on the height of the wire, are Globe Norway Maple and Yellowwood.

Figure 1   If a tree is to be planted in a paved area such as a sidewalk or a parking lot, there should be an opening cut large enough to accommodate tree growth. Without an opening, tree growth will result in damage to the paved area or to the tree. At a minimum, a 4' square or 16 square feet is required for small trees. Recognize that larger growing trees require larger openings, such as a 4' x 6' or a 4' x 8'.
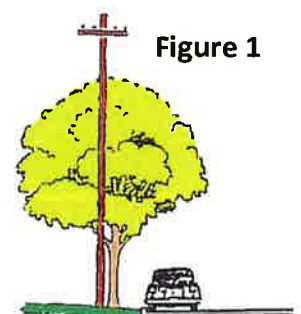
Figure 1

Other considerations should be the width of the parking strips or parkways where trees are to be planted. Take note of any overhead obstruction. Do not plant medium or large trees in areas with overhead wires or overhanging awnings.

Figure 2 Figure 2 shows a less restrictive situation. There are no overhead obstructions in this case, and the tree is planted in a parkway strip between the curb and sidewalk. Good trees for this situation would be Maples (most), Ashes, Lindens, Oaks, and Zelkova. Areas with wider strips (8 – 10' or more) can accommodate larger species like Big Leaf Maple and Tulip Tree.
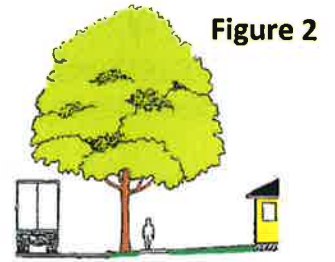

Figure 2

Figure 3 Figure 3 shows a narrower planting strip and a curb lane of traffic. In this case, upright branches are needed to avoid conflicts with vehicles. Examples would include Red Maple, Cleveland Maple, Olmstead Norway Maple and Green Ash.
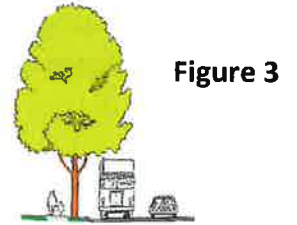

Figure 3

Figure 4 Figure 4 shows a narrow space between the curb and large buildings. This is seen most commonly in downtown business areas. Columnar varieties are especially useful in this situation, and examples include Armstrong Red Maple and Columnar Hornbeam.
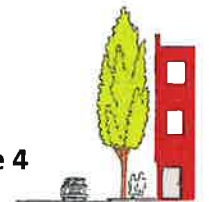
Figure 4

Figure 5 Street Tree Spacing and Location Requirement
Almost all streets within the City have rights-of-way that extend beyond the back of the sidewalk. This area is public property and is generally used for utilities, traffic signs and landscaping. The widths of the rights-of-way vary considerably in different sections of town. This diagram illustrates some common planting situations as well as spacing requirements for small, medium, and large trees.
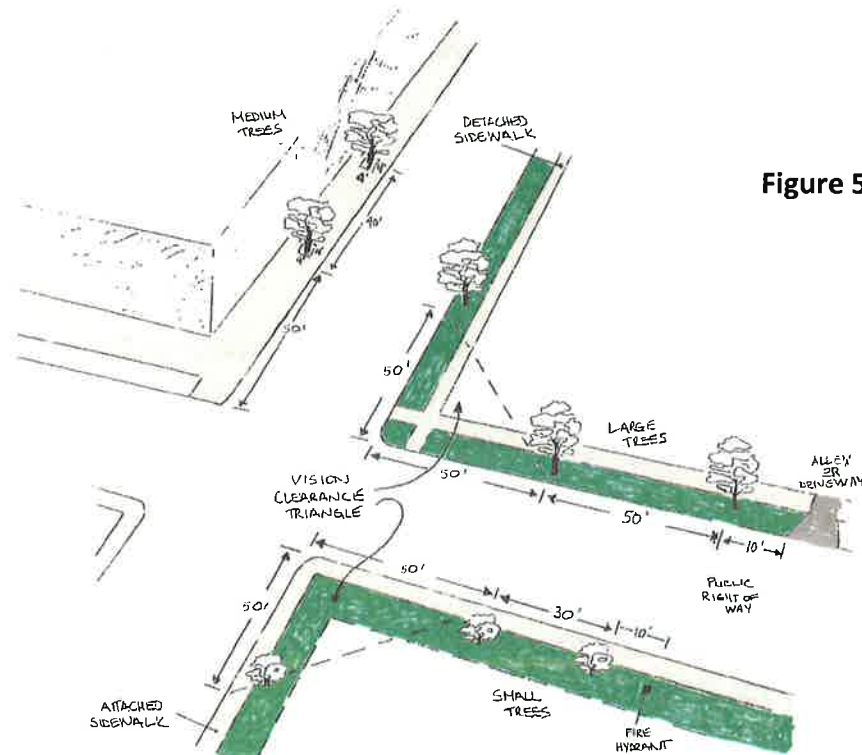

Figure 5

Figure 5 illustrates the spacing and location requirements for all trees planted in the public way or right-of-way throughout Roseburg. The requirements are as follows:
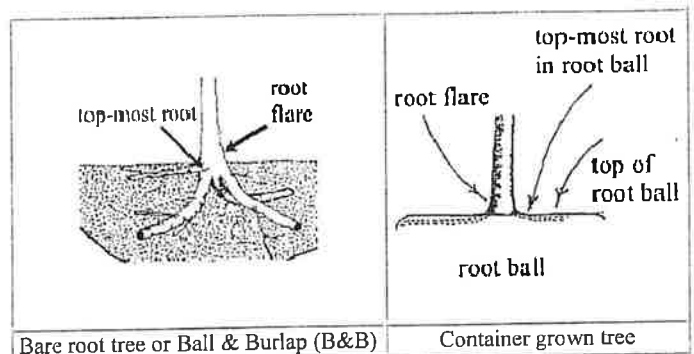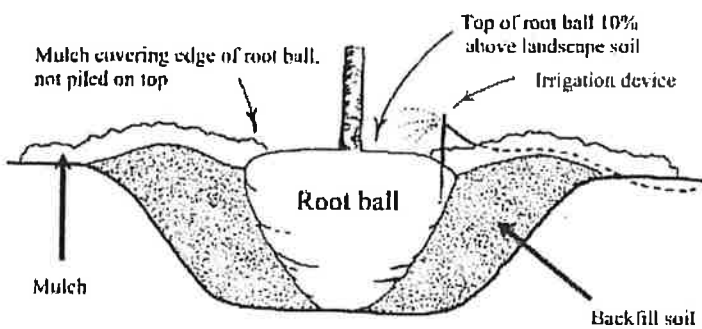
	Small Trees	Medium Trees	Large Trees
Tree Spacing	25'	40'	50'
Minimum Planting Area Width	4'	6'	8'
Distance from Intersections	50'	50'	50'
Distance from Fire Hydrants	10'	10'	10'
Minimum Street Vertical Clearance	15'	15'	15'
Minimum Sidewalk Vertical Clearance	9'	9'	9'

Small trees are classified as those reaching 25' or less at maturity; medium trees 30' – 50', and large trees over 50'.

## Planting Tips

Ball & Burlap or Potted Trees:
1. Once you have identified your site, make a 'one-call' (utility locate 8-1-1) at least 48 business hours prior to digging so the utility owners can mark their lines. Then you can dig a hole for the tree. The hole should provide ample width for the root ball. The depth should be no deeper than the ball & burlap or the container and it's better to plant the tree on undisturbed soil to reduce settling too low.
2. Check the hole for proper depth. The object is to have the top of the root ball level or slightly higher than the surrounding soil, as shown below (Example 1 and Example 2).
3. Fill the hole with enough soil to hold the root ball in place.
4. Cut the twine and burlap and remove the burlap from the hole.
5. Fill the hole with soil almost to the top.
6. Water thoroughly.
7. Fill in to surrounding soil level and build a ring 3" high around the hole perimeter. Fill this with 1" – 2" of bark mulch.
8. Water thoroughly again.

Mulch covering edge of root ball. not piled on top
Top of root ball 10% above landscape soil
Irrigation device
Root ball
Mulch
Backfill soil

top-most root
root flare
Bare root tree or Ball & Burlap (B&B)

top-most root in root ball
root flare
top of root ball
root ball
Container grown tree

Bare Root Trees: Use the same procedure as above, with the following additions.
1. Remove any damaged, dead, or mushy roots with pruners, cutting back to healthy tissue.
2. Heavily water the tree, flooding the root system, and then allow to drain completely.

Staking: For any type of tree stake as shown (Example 3). Remove the stakes after the second growing season.

Example 3
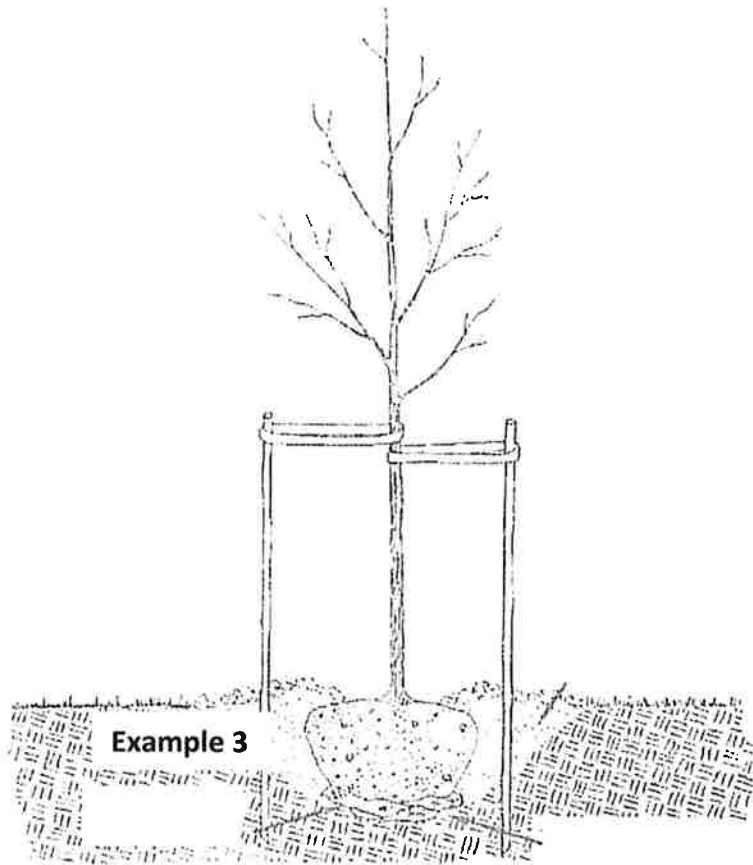
Watering   Young transplanted trees often require more water than falls as rain. During normal dry season conditions from May through October, water your young tree heavily once every two weeks. During hot periods, water once a week. Maintaining 2" to 3" of mulch over the root zone can help the tree during the dry season. Once the tree is established, the need for supplemental water will decrease. One suggestion for saving water is to include a 3' to 4' piece of 3" perforated drain pipe in the planting hole. Filling this pipe and letting it drain will deliver roughly one gallon of water per application. Young trees will require 5 – 10 gallons of water per application. Remember, when watering trees, root system development is best when trees are watered deeply and infrequently.

Tree Pruning Tips

Tree pruning, when properly performed, can greatly enhance the health, vigor, and appearance of a given tree. With some basic tips in mind, you can properly and safely prune your trees. It is recommended that any tree trimming that must be performed from within the tree itself and off the ground be performed by trained professionals to ISA Best Management Practices Pruning standards. The ISA pruning information is available online at www.isa-arbor.com and is also available on the City of Roseburg's website at www.cityofroseburg.org.

Most importantly, never trim around or near power lines. Should you have a tree that is growing into power lines, contact Pacific Power for assistance. Shown below are some pruning basics:

Where should you cut? To find the proper place to cut a branch, look for the "branch collar" that grows from the stem tissue at the underside of the base of the branch. On the upper surface, there is usually a "branch bark ridge" that runs parallel to the branch angle, along the stem of the tree. A proper cut begins just outside the branch bark ridge and angles down away from the stem of the tree, avoiding injury to the branch collar.
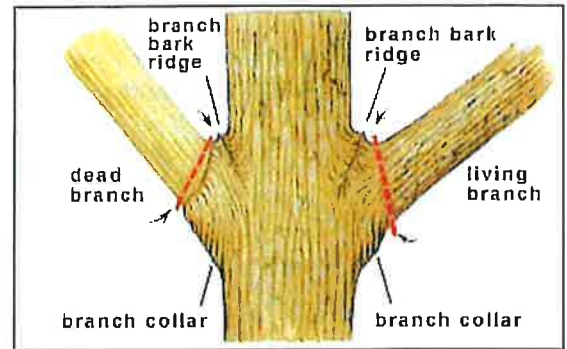
How should you cut? Make the cut as close as possible to the stem in the branch collar. If the cut is too far from the interior, leaving a branch stub, the branch tissue usually dies and wound wood forms from the stem tissue. Wound closure is delayed because the wound wood must seal over the stub that was left.
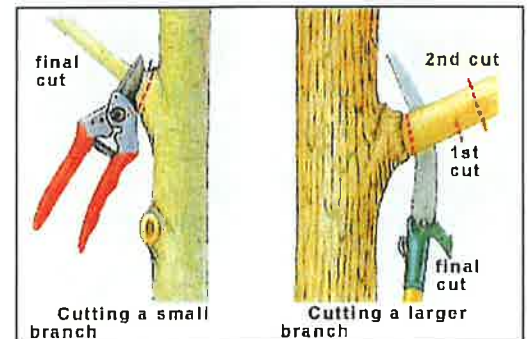
Why you should not 'top' or your tree.

Why you shouldn't top a tree

Topping is the term used when the main branches of a tree are trimmed to a stub. The practice is widely considered to be harmful to a tree.

When a branch is cut to a stub, it causes weak but fast-growing sprouts to form in large numbers that make the tree bushier and require more pruning.

Topped tree

Properly pruned

Topping destroys a tree s natural shape, weakens it and makes it more susceptible to disease and decay.
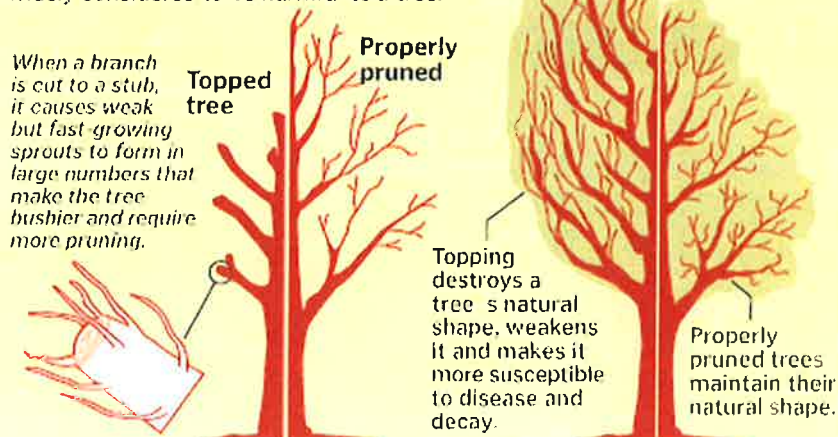
Properly pruned trees maintain their natural shape.

EXHIBIT "A"
DOWNTOWN STREET TREE PROGRAM

1 inch = 400 feet

Legend

- - - - Tree Boundary at Center Line of Road