

## City of Sandusky Tree Commission – Frequently Asked Questions

### **What are the benefits of trees?**

Trees are much more than shade and habitat for birds and squirrels. Find out more here.

<http://www.treesaregood.com/treeowner/benefitsoftrees.aspx>

### **How many street trees are there in Sandusky?**

In a survey taken in 2014, there were over 6,000 recorded.

### **Who is responsible for the “street trees”?**

Trees that are located in the boulevard are considered “Street trees”, which are the responsibility of the homeowner, to trim and maintain through a registered tree contractor (list can be provided by Public Service office our contact number 419 627 5884). However, over the last 22 months, through the Issue 8 funds, the city has been able to start a program of removing dead/dying trees and start planting trees when the homeowner requests a replacement (Storm Water Funds). Currently we are entering the 3<sup>rd</sup> installment of this program and are working on our 2018 list of removals and trims. Anyone interested in having a tree inspected by the City for consideration, should call the Public Service office.

### **How does the City currently manage the street trees?**

Over the last 22 months, through the Issue 8 funds, the city has been able to start a program of removing dead/dying trees and start planting trees when the homeowner requests a replacement (Storm Water Funds). Currently we are entering the 3<sup>rd</sup> installment of this program and are working on our 2018 list of removals and trims. Anyone interested in having a tree inspected by the City for consideration, should call the Public Service office.

### **Who pays for the management of our City’s street and park trees?**

Most urban forestry management is funded by the City’s general fund. Additional funding also comes through grants and stormwater fees, but can vary from year to year.

### **What does the Tree Commission do?**

The Tree Commission is a volunteer citizen advisory board to the City of Sandusky. They assist with recommendations for urban forestry management within the City, provide education and outreach about tree care to residents of the City, and assist with outside fund seeking for environmental improvements for our city.

The commission meets at 4:00pm on the last Tuesday of each month in the Sandusky Greenhouse. All meetings are open to the public.

### **Who do I call if I think there is a problem with a tree?**

For suspected issues with boulevard trees, contact the City’s Public Services Department at 419-627-5884. Typical issues may be for tree condition, dead/hanging limbs, storm damage, or tree conflict with property.

**How do I get the City to trim/remove/plant a tree in the boulevard in front of my house?**

Contact the City's Public Services Department at 419-627-5884 to assess the request.

**Does contacting the City guarantee immediate action on my tree request?**

When a request about a tree comes in an assessment is made, if the request is for trimming or removal a City staff will visit the questioned tree to determine if the request is valid. If request

**Can I plant my own tree in the boulevard in front of my house?**

Residents can plant their own tree in the boulevard if they have an approved permit and have received training on proper tree planting. You can access the permit application here.

<http://www.ci.sandusky.oh.us/horticulture/forestry.htm>

**Can I trim/remove my own tree in the boulevard in front of my house?**

Residents can pay to have an approved contractor trim/remove their own tree in the boulevard space if they have an approved permit. You can access the permit application here.

**Why can't I plant any tree I want in the boulevard?**

To ensure the right tree is planted in the right spot and prevent issues down the road such as sidewalk heaving, view obstructions, etc. The City staff and assistance from the Tree Commission will provide a list of acceptable trees a resident can choose from on a case by case basis.

**Are there restrictions for planting a tree on my property?**

The City does not restrict tree planting on an individual's property outside the boulevard. Residents are encouraged to learn about proper tree selection and be mindful of property boundaries before planting.

**What do I do if I have a problem with a neighbor's tree?**

It's always best to discuss concerns of a neighbor's tree with a neighbor. Property owners are encouraged to properly maintain their private trees so nuisance concerns are addressed. The City does not get involved with private tree issues unless the tree poses a safety concern in the public right of way.

**How do I pick the right tree?**

Trees can be like puppies, they are cute when small but can grow quite large if you don't know much about them. Make sure you pick the right tree for your region, space, and landscaping by following these tips here. <http://www.treesaregood.com/treecare/resources/TreeSelection.pdf>

**What's the proper way to plant a tree?**

A new tree is a great investment for your property now and the future. Make sure that investment is properly planted by learning more here.

[http://www.treesaregood.com/treecare/resources/New\\_TreePlanting.pdf](http://www.treesaregood.com/treecare/resources/New_TreePlanting.pdf)

**How often should you water a tree after planting?**

A general rule of thumb is to use approximately 10 gallons of water per inch of trunk diameter for each

watering. Measure trunk diameter at knee height. General formula: Tree Diameter x 5 minutes = Total Watering Time

**What's the proper way to mulch a tree?**

Applying too much mulch can kill a tree. Learn more about proper mulching here.

<http://www.treesaregood.com/treecare/resources/propermulching.pdf>