

Frequently Asked Questions about Trees

- **Can I remove a tree that is between the sidewalk and street in front of my house or business?**
Check the plat of your property for ownership of this area. Generally, this area belongs to the city of Carmel and the trees are city property.
- **Does the city of Carmel remove city trees at homeowners' request?**
Having trees and other landscaping is a benefit for all citizens. The city has invested time and money into these improvements for all citizens and neighborhoods. City trees are a valuable resource and are therefore removed only under specific circumstances. Should you wonder about your street tree's health, contact the Urban Forester at 317-571-2417.
- **Who should I contact if I have a dead tree in front of my house on city property?**
Contact the Urban Forester at 317-571-2417.
- **I have a dead tree in the alley behind our property that needs to be removed. Will the city remove it?**
If the tree is located within city property and is dead, the city will remove it. Contact the Urban Forester at 317-571-2417.
- **Who should I contact if a tree has fallen onto the street?**
Contact the Carmel Street Department at 317-733-2001.
- **Someone or something is damaging a city tree, who should I contact?**
Contact the Urban Forester at 317-571-2417.
- **What do I do if a street tree needs maintenance?**
If a street tree needs to be trimmed or inspected, please contact the Urban Forester at 317-571-2417.
- **Will the city assist a citizen with tree trimming or removal on private property?**
No, unfortunately, the city does not assist a citizen with tree trimming or removal on private property. As a homeowner, you may have to contact a consulting arborist to meet your tree care needs.
- **My neighbor's tree hangs over my property line. Whose responsibility is it to trim? My neighbor refuses to.**
Contact your neighbor and talk out any concerns before starting any pruning. Trees as they grow and develop are not aware of property lines. Sound forestry practices that relate to proper trimming of trees must be followed. Severe trimming which damages the health of the trees should not be practiced.
- **A tree on my private property has grown up into the utility wires. I have called the power company but they say they will get to it when they can. I am afraid this is a very dangerous situation. Can the city do something about this?**
No. The responsibility for trimming trees growing into and around the utility wires by federal law is that of the utility company.