

Forestry Division

Mission: Protecting and enhancing the health and diversity of our urban forest to ensure the economic, environmental, and social benefits for future generations. This is accomplished thru a comprehensive program involving planting, pruning, pest and disease control, removals and tree inventory.

1. The City Tree Program
 - a. Manages the tree canopy on public property, tree lawns, and medians.
This involves:
 - i. Planting trees in spring and fall (363 were planted spring,2013)
 - ii. Three tree inspections each year of all streets in Shaker Heights, to identify hazardous trees, trees that obscure walkways or signage, and signs of tree disease or infestation
 - iii. Pruning or removal of trees with identified problems.
2. Policies
 - a. [Treelawns and their Trees](#)
 - b. [Sidewalk Repairs and Trees](#)
 - c. [Wood Chips](#)
3. Ordinances pertaining to trees on public grounds and tree lawns.
 - a. Duties of Superintendent of Parks and Forestry shall be to have charge of the maintenance of parks and public grounds within the City and also of trees and shrubbery upon the public streets of the City. (Ord. 98-188. Enacted 12-21-98.)
 - b. [Destruction or injury of trees and shrubs](#) on public land or another's private land is unlawful. See 741.06
 - c. [Pruning, fertilizing, spraying, attaching rope, wire, or sign](#) to public land trees or shrubs is unlawful. See 747.01
4. Ordinances pertaining to trees on private property.
 - a. [Nuisances in connection with trees of residents](#)—such as infestation that could spread, a fallen tree or one that is likely to fall on public or private property, branches that obstruct traffic on a street public place or sidewalk. See 747.02
 - b. [Diseased or dead elm trees](#) must be removed. See 747.06 and 747.07
5. Infestation management plans and policies.

***The Forestry Department investigates reports of infestations such as Dutch Elm Disease, Emerald Ash Borer.*

***If a tree is sick or dying, it is recommended to have it cut down before it dies, as the cost and danger of removing a large dead tree is much greater than the removal of a live one.*

*** Residents can contact Public Works for forester to inspect trees on public/private property to determine proper course of action.*

- a. [Emerald Ash Borer \(EAB\) Management Plan](#) December 2006 was implemented over a 5 year period. In 2011 additional money was obtained through a matching grant from ODNR for removal of remaining ash trees on public property.
- b. [Asian Longhorn Beetle \(ALB\) Management Plan](#)
- c. [Dutch Elm Disease](#) results from beetles carrying a fungus that goes through the water-conducting tissue of the American Elm tree. The first sign of disease is when the leaves begin to turn yellow. See [How to Identify and Manage Dutch Elm Disease](#)

1. Help! Who to Call? For What?

- a. CEI: 800-589-3010 for a limb /tree on wire
- b. Dominion Gas Company: 877-542-2630 for the smell of gas in yard, sidewalk, or street areas
- c. Forester Patrick Neville: 216-491-1490 or email patrick.neville@shakeronline.com for
 1. hazardous tree on tree lawn or public property
 2. traffic sign hidden by tree
 3. sidewalk clearance obstructed by tree
 4. investigate diseased tree or insect found on tree
 5. car accident that injures tree to determine assessment of value of the tree for insurance reimbursement to the city or private land owner.