

CITY OF WINTERS POLICY REGARDING TREE REMOVAL

The Winters Municipal Code¹ charges the City with, among other things, developing a “policy plan for tree removal and retention in the Control Zone and public places.”

The Control Zone “includes an area (1) ten feet (10 ft.) in depth measured from the rear of the sidewalk (side of sidewalk closest to home), on those streets without a planter strip between curb and sidewalk; and (2) fifteen feet (15 ft.) in depth measured from the rear of the curb (side of curb closest to home), on those streets with a planter strip between curb and sidewalk.” See attached diagram.

The mandated “Policy Plan” requires that individuals notify the City of their desire to plant, remove, and/or heavily prune trees in the Control Zone. Notification is made through filling out the attached application and giving it to the Public Works Coordinator.

There is also a list of trees not to be planted in the City and a list of trees excluded from the Control Zone. These lists were developed through extensive research into the individual characteristics of many tree species. The list excludes trees that have invasive root systems with the potential to damage sidewalks, streets, and water, sewer, and storm drain systems; are extremely sensitive to disease, invasion of insects and/or mistletoe; cause excessive debris which may damage automobiles, clog drains, and/or present hazards to public safety.

While the area ten feet in depth from the real property line of private property is designated the Control Zone, in which the City has jurisdiction over planting, removal, and pruning of any trees, the area and the trees are owned and maintained by private property owners. The jurisdiction allows the city to protect the citizens of Winters from expensive infrastructure, street, and sidewalk repairs necessitated from tree damage; expenses for city equipment and labor costs for excessive street sweeping to clean up after messy trees; and damage to automobiles, messy sidewalks, possible injury, etc. from tree droppings.

All maintenance of trees from the edge of the curb inward on private property is the responsibility of the property owner. This includes removal, trimming, pruning, spraying, planting, and any other necessary maintenance in control areas, sidewalk planting strips, and/or alleys.

The City will abate nuisances and/or hazards on public right-of-way caused by overgrown trees, shrubs, or other vegetation at the cost of the property owner after notification and if the property owner fails to remove the nuisance/hazard in a timely manner.

There are many old trees in the City that were designated as historic trees by the former Streets and Trees Commission. These trees are an important part of the heritage of the City. The Public Works Department closely monitors any activity involving these trees.

If you are fortunate to be a caretaker of one of these trees please notify Public Works of any work you plan to do for it. If you are not sure if one of YOUR trees is a historic tree, see the list attached.

If a citizen wishes to plant, remove, and/or prune a tree or trees in the Control Zone or sidewalk planting strip, s/he should fill out the request form. If there are any questions s/he should contact the Public Works Coordinator at City Hall or call (530) 795-2820, extension 115.

Enjoy the amenities provided by the trees in the City of Winters and be assured that the City is working to provide a pleasant, shady environment for all of its citizens. Below are two lists of tree one showing trees no allowed in the Control Zone, and the other showing trees not allowed within the City Limits.

Trees No Longer Allowed to be Planted in the Control Zone

Fruit and Nut Trees
Fruitless and Fruited Mulberry
Ailanthus
Acacia
Black Walnut
Eucalyptus
Palm
Osage Orange

Trees No Longer Allowed to be Planted Within the City Limits

Willow
Poplar
Cottonwood
Elm, Chinese Elm Acceptable
Modesto Ash

CITY OF WINTERS HISTORIC TREE LIST

<i>TYPE</i>	<i>QUANTITY</i>	<i>LOCATION</i>
Oak	1	Abbey St.
	1	414 Baker St.
	1	422 & 424 Russell (backyard)
	2	102 Wolfskill
Eucalyptus	1	722 Railroad Ave. (on Anderson St)
Palms	2	21 E. Abbey
	1	803 Apricot
	1	8 Baker St.
	2	15 E. Baker St.
	2	City Park
	1	City Corp. Yard
	3	101 W. Grant Ave. (High School)
	5	203/205 Main St
	1	311 Main St.
	1	Railroad & Main (NE corner Judy Memorial)
	2	720 Railroad
	3	2 Russell
	1	12 Russell
	2	101 Russell
9	210 Russell (1 dead)	
1	312 Russell	
Catalpa	1	100 Russell
Cedar	1	12 Russell
	1	428 Russell
	1	105 Second St.
	6	City Park (WCTU Memorials)
Black Walnut	1	Cemetery
Honey Mesquite	1	City Park
Italian Cypress	2	110 Abbey St.
Olives	3	Cemetery Ln. (west side)
Pecan	11	Niemann St. at Ag. Site
Pistachio	1	211 Abbey St.

**CITY OF WINTERS
REQUEST TO REMOVE A CONTROL ZONE TREE(S)**

DATE: _____

NAME: _____ **TELEPHONE:** _____

ADDRESS: _____

1. Is the tree requesting to be removed on the Historic Tree List? If so, it may require closer review by the Public Works Department.
2. **PROJECT:** Describe your project including justification and replacement plan(s). Replacement plans are required.

3. **MAP: Provide a map/sketch outlining the existing landscape.**

4. **MAP: Provide a map/sketch outlining your future landscaping plan(s).**

5. **APPROVED** **NOT APPROVED**

Date: _____

Director of Public Works

Comments: _____
