

Process for Removal of Hazard and Non-Hazard Public Shade Trees

Hazard Public Shade Trees:

1. An application for tree removal must be filled out and filed with the Tree Warden. Applications are available online (www.town.lynnfield.ma.us) and at the DPW Office at Town Hall.
2. The Tree Warden will inspect the tree.
3. The Tree Warden will complete a work request with his/her findings.
4. Per Chapter 87 of Massachusetts General Law, a tree that is deemed a significant hazard and meets the qualifications will be removed as soon as reasonably possible based on the condition of the tree and the priorities of the DPW.

NON-Hazard Public Shade Trees:

1. An application for tree removal must be filled out and filed with the Tree Warden at Town Hall. Applications are available online (www.town.lynnfield.ma.us) and at the DPW Office at Town Hall.
2. When the completed application is received by the DPW, a date will be scheduled for a public hearing.
3. The requestor must post a legal advertisement for two consecutive weeks in a local newspaper at his or her own expense. The notice is to appear for at least one day during each of the two weeks before the hearing date. The requestor must provide evidence of the two postings.
4. The Tree Warden will post a notice of the public hearing on the tree itself at least seven (7) days before the hearing.
5. Two (2) additional notices will be posted in public places around town.
6. Per Chapter 87 of Massachusetts General Law regarding Public Shade Trees, a tree hearing will be held. If at or before the hearing an objection in writing is received by the Tree Warden, then the tree cannot be removed.
7. Within two weeks following the public hearing, the owner will be notified with the Tree Warden's final decision.
8. The applicant must have all other necessary permits from all other Town agencies.
9. If approval is granted for the removal of the tree, the applicant is required to pay for the removal of the tree by a licensed, insured, and bonded contractor approved by the DPW.
10. The applicant must pay for the replacement of the equivalent of the tree. The Tree Warden will determine where the replacement tree is to be planted.