

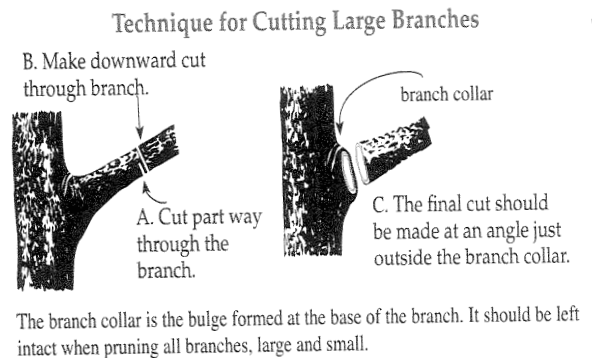
# TREE MAINTENANCE

**One of my duties in Code Enforcement is enforcing the tree ordinance. I have been asking many residents to do some tree maintenance. What I am trying to do is go through the city, street by street and leave notices for homeowners that have limbs hanging too low. I appreciate all of the hard work that has been taking place within our city! The streets that have already trimmed their trees are looking great! I have had several questions asked of me, so I thought I would share some additional information:**

**Why do we need to prune trees?** Branches that hang low over sidewalks and streets are considered a safety hazard, either to pedestrians or to persons traveling in vehicles. Low overhead vegetation, and limbs not properly maintained can not only fall during storms, or reduce visibility, but can also damage larger vehicles; such as: school buses, delivery trucks and emergency vehicles. For example: The fire truck that participated in the city's 4<sup>th</sup> of July parade cost 1 million dollars, and as you can imagine repairs to a fire truck can be quite costly for our small city to absorb.

**How much do I need to prune?** The minimum height of overhead vegetation is 10 feet over sidewalks, and the minimum height of limbs over streets is 16 feet.

**How do I prune a tree?** For the purposes of the ordinance requirements I am asking you to raise the crown of the tree, which means to remove the lower branches of the tree to allow clearance. Large jobs that require the use of a ladder and power tools would probably be best left to a professional. When hiring a tree contractor, make sure they have experience, references, the proper equipment, and are insured.

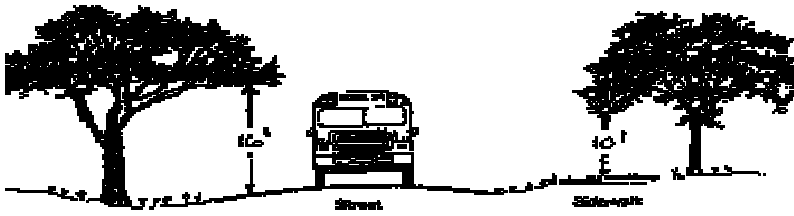


**My trees aren't as bad as the neighbor's, why am I being asked to trim?** When I am leaving notices for tree trimming, I will be asking all of your neighbors along your street to do the same. Some families will only need to address a few branches, but others have a larger job at hand. We are trying to maintain uniformity in the limb heights, so even though all trees do not grow at the same rate, at least the overgrowth will be more manageable.

**Safety First!** Please remember SAFETY FIRST when you are trimming your trees. Never work near any power line. If you are working in the street be aware of your surroundings, and get someone to assist you with traffic. Use personal protective equipment such as gloves, safety glasses, hard hats, hearing protection and be sure to read the manufacturer's operating manual for any power equipment used.

**How do I get rid of the cut branches?** Tree debris is collected on your regular trash days. Tree limbs must be tied into 4 foot long bundles, not weighing more than 40 pounds. No tree limb greater than 3" diameter will be collected.

**For information on tree care and maintenance check out:** [www.treesaregood.com](http://www.treesaregood.com); [www.arborday.org](http://www.arborday.org); [www.fs.fed.us](http://www.fs.fed.us);



**Street Cross Section – Minimum Tree Clearances**  
**16' over streets      10' over sidewalks**