

## What will the City do about a tree that has been reported to be hazardous?

If the tree is within the City's jurisdiction and the City Forester agrees that it is hazardous, the City will arrange for a crew to prune or remove it. If the tree is on private property and is determined to be hazardous to people or property on public sidewalks or streets, the City has authority to order the property owner to have it removed or pruned. If the City orders the property owner to carry out removal or pruning and the property owner doesn't comply with the order, the City can come onto the property to do the work and may charge the property owner for that work.

## How can I find out if a tree belongs to the City of Hartford?

Trees in public parks, on grounds of public schools and other City buildings and between sidewalks and streets belong to the City. Some trees inside the sidewalk line belong to the City. To find out about a particular tree, contact the City Forester.

# Think Trees!

### Get in touch!

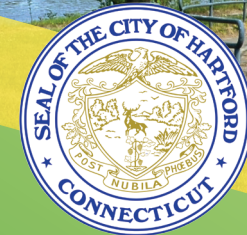
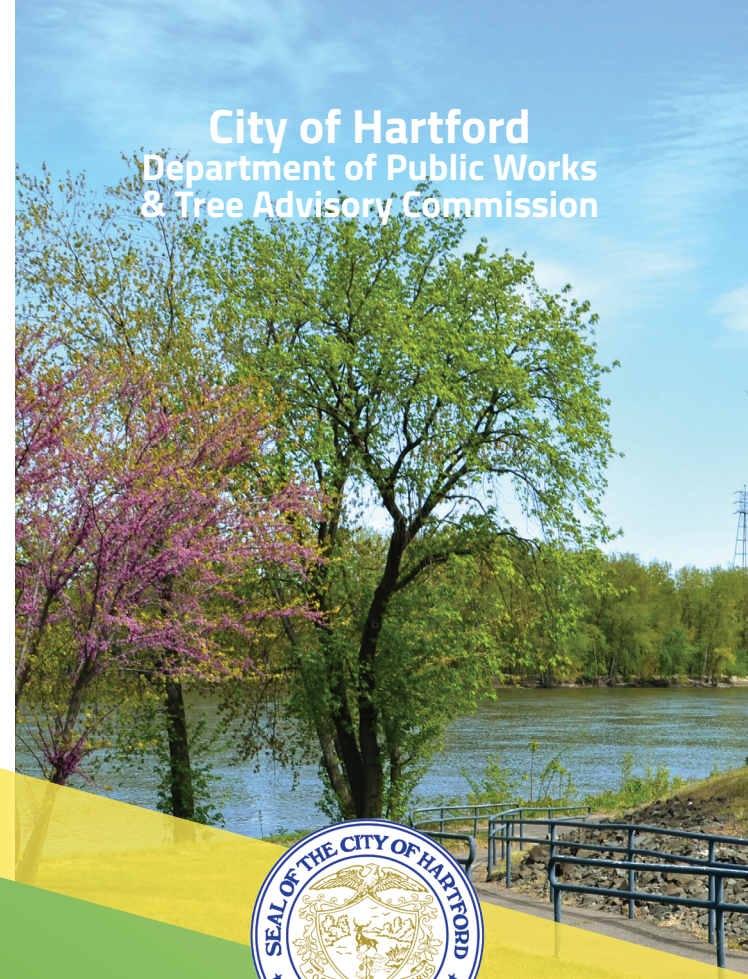
City Forester Contact Information  
Heather Dionne  
860-757-0683  
dionh001@hartford.gov.



***Disclaimer:** The questions and answers in this brochure are provided for general information only and are not meant as legal or other advice. If you require specific legal advice on any of the issues set forth here, please consult an attorney. The above information is not intended to be an exhaustive resource for all things related to trees in Hartford. This information is subject to change without notice.*



City of Hartford  
Department of Public Works  
& Tree Advisory Commission



## Hartford Residents: Trees Make Our City Beautiful

**Vision:** To maintain and improve the urban forest through "out of the box" approaches that will foster ownership by Hartford residents as well as maximize the resources for our green infrastructure.



### Property Owner Tree Responsibilities

Part of being a “good neighbor” is taking care of your house, its curb appeal and any trees in or around your property. Pay close attention to decaying or dried up trees, to tree branches over your house, garage or over your neighbor’s property. Being and staying proactive minimizes the risk of injury, accidents and potential lawsuits.

### Can I plant a tree?

You may plant a tree on your own property. If you want to plant a tree near the street or in another public place, you will need a permit from the City Forester who also has a list of recommended trees for Hartford.

### Can I cut down a tree?

You may remove a tree from your own property if the trunk is smaller than 13 inches in diameter, 4.5 feet above the ground. If the tree is more than 13 inches in diameter, you need a permit from the City Forester. If the tree belongs to the City, regardless of its size, you will also need to get a permit. The City of Hartford suggests hiring a licensed arborist to remove any tree unless it is very small, but first ask to see their arborist license (issued by CT DEEP) and evidence that they have liability and workers’ compensation insurance. Don’t be afraid to ask – a professional will be happy to provide proof.

### Will the City come onto private property to remove or prune a tree if the tree does not endanger people or property on public sidewalks or streets?

No.

### What can I do about a tree on my neighbor’s property that threatens my property?

You may hire a licensed arborist to remove branches that overhang your property or you can ask your neighbor to take proper care of the tree. For insurance purposes, you may want to get a written statement from an arborist that the tree is dangerous.

### What if a tree is damaging my sidewalk?

Use 3-1-1 to report a problem. The City of Hartford will not normally remove a tree that has damaged a sidewalk, but the City is responsible for the condition of the sidewalk.

Do not plant trees near public sidewalks if the roots are likely to disturb those sidewalks. For more information on this subject, please contact the City Forester.

### What will the City do about tree roots in my sewer line?

The City is not responsible for tree roots that allegedly cause damage to underground pipes. Research shows that roots enter pipes that are already damaged. Roots in pipes are the responsibility of the property owner. It would be prudent for a property owner to obtain and maintain appropriate insurance coverage for tree roots and underground pipes. The City will not remove trees based on damaged pipes.

### How can I get a free tree for my yard?

Hartford property owners who would like a tree planted in front of their house, can call KNOX at 860-951-7694 or visit: [www.knoxhartford.org](http://www.knoxhartford.org) for more information.



### What makes a hazardous tree?

A hazardous tree has a structural defect that may cause the tree or a portion of the tree to fall on someone or something else of value. (National Arbor Day Foundation) Here are some questions to ask yourself:

- What is the tree’s history?
- Are there dead branches?
- What about balance? Is the tree tilted?
- Do some branches cross or rub?
- How vigorous is the tree?
- Is the tree dead or dying?
- Any signs of root decay?
- Are any roots severed?

### What should I do if I think a tree is hazardous?

Whether the tree belongs to City or is on private property, contact 3-1-1 or the City Forester to report it. If the tree is on your property, you should hire an arborist to prune or remove it. Make sure you have secured a permit to remove it if it is more than 13 inches in diameter and still alive.

### How do I use 3-1-1?

- Landline: Dial 3-1-1
- Cell phone: 860-757-9311
- Smart phone: Hartford 311 App.
- Online: [www.publicstuff.com/submit](http://www.publicstuff.com/submit) Enter “Hartford”, type “Trees” in search bar, select “Forestry” type