

# WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT TREES AND SHRUBS IN THE PUBLIC RIGHT-OF-WAY



Derby's property owners are essential partners in preserving and maintaining our community forest. Trees help make our city healthy and attractive. We all benefit from our combined efforts to protect and care for the trees in Derby.

Many streets in Derby's neighborhoods are lined with trees located between the curb and sidewalk, an area of land known as the public right-of-way. As trees age, they need more maintenance and care.

The Derby Municipal Code says homeowners are responsible for maintenance of trees on this right-of-way (ROW) property.

In ROW areas, homeowners or an arborist they hire are required to:

- Prune tree branches so they are at least eight feet above sidewalks. Branches that overhang streets must have at least 12 feet of clearance.
- Trim trees and shrubs in the ROW so sight lines to traffic, safety signs or traffic signals are not obscured and pedestrian access is available across the full width of the sidewalk.
- Prune broken or dead branches correctly to promote proper healing and regrowth.
- Remove hazardous or dead trees.



City parks staff manage trees and landscaping at public facilities, parks and along major arterial streets to ensure safe passage of vehicles and pedestrians. This includes trimming along the hike and bike path system to ensure cyclists, joggers and walkers have pathways free of obstructions.

If you have questions about tree and shrub management contact Derby Parks Director Steve White at 788-0301. To notify us of problem areas, call Code Enforcement Officer Brent Lichti at 788-0301 or submit a request on the city website at [www.derbyks.com](http://www.derbyks.com).