

Government of the District of Columbia

Department of Transportation



DDOT Trees

Permits and Laws

Tree Permits

tops.ddot.dc.gov | DDOT Permits Office - 1100 4th Street SW, 2nd Floor

Public Space Tree Permits

A Public Space Construction/Excavation Permit is required to plant, prune, remove and replace any tree located between the curb and sidewalk or any tree located within the public space right-of-way distribution if no sidewalk exists. For removals, tree measurements are to be measured around the trunk at 4.5 feet above the ground. The public space compensation for planting, pruning, removal and replacement are as follows:

PUBLIC SPACE PERMITS	COMPENSATION
Tree Planting	\$0 (no fee)
Tree Pruning	Payment @ \$75 per tree
Tree Removal (non-hazardous trees)	Payment @ \$200 per inch diameter
Tree Replacement (hazardous trees)	Planting new tree(s) @ 1:1 ratio

Special Tree Removal Permit

In order to protect the District's canopy and its largest trees, individuals must receive a permit to remove any tree in the public parking dimension and/or on private property between 44 inches and 99.9 inches circumference (measured around the trunk at 4.5 feet from the ground). Trees 100 inches circumference or larger are considered Heritage Trees and cannot be removed. Permits are issued under at least one of the following conditions:

- An International Society of Arboriculture (ISA) arborist deems the tree is hazardous to life and /or property;
- The tree is of a species exempt from the law: Tree of Heaven (*Ailanthus altissima*), Mulberry (*Morus* species), or Norway maple (*Acer platanoides*);

The property owner declares on the permit application to pay into the Tree Fund a tree replacement fee of **\$55 per inch of circumference** for each Special Tree to be removed.

Failure to comply will result in a violation subject to a fine of **not less than \$300 per each inch of tree circumference**.

For adjacent private property tree issues, contact the Multi-Door Dispute Resolution Division at DC Superior Court -

Government of the District of Columbia

Department of Transportation



http://www.dccourts.gov/internet/superior/org_multidoor/main.jsf

Construction Zone Protection

All construction projects in the vicinity of a street tree must install 6 foot tall chain link fence to protect the *Critical Root Zone (CRZ)* of the tree from construction activity, equipment, and materials.

CRZ = 1.5 foot of protection as measured from the base of the tree for every inch of trunk diameter.

If the full CRZ cannot be protected, 6 foot chain link fencing must be installed to the extent of the tree box (minimum 4' x 9') or to the drip line in a planting strip. The drip line is defined as the ground area under the canopy of a tree.

Ornamental Fencing for Tree Boxes

Ornamental fencing protects trees from compaction and damage. A permit is required to install an 18 inch tall fence made to meet or exceed DDOT specifications (pictured at right). For the full fence specification, please see DDOT Standard Specifications Section 608.06 and the DDOT Standard Drawings 608.13 at the following link -



<http://ddot.dc.gov/page/standards-and-guidelines>

Female Ginkgo Tree Spraying and Removal

Female Ginkgo Spraying

DDOT currently uses a mild pesticide to prevent the odorous female ginkgo fruits from forming each spring. Visit <http://ddot.dc.gov/page/ddot-urban-forestry> under Female Ginkgo Tree Removal Policy for a map of trees that are sprayed as well as detailed label information about the Shield Potato Sprout Inhibitor used. You may also call 202-671-5133 for this information.

Female Ginkgo Removal

Government of the District of Columbia

Department of Transportation



Some residents are not satisfied with fruit spraying because the treatment is not always effective and sometimes difficult to complete within the tight seasonal timeframe available; still others are concerned about pesticide use. Residents of a block may submit a petition for consideration if 60% of property owners support removal of a female ginkgo (multi-unit buildings are granted one vote by the governing body).

Visit <http://ddot.dc.gov/page/ddot-urban-forestry> for more information.

Ash Tree Wood Quarantine

To prevent the spread of Emerald Ash Borer, wood from ash trees cannot be moved outside a federal quarantine area in the Northeast and upper Midwest (see links under Tree Diseases at <http://ddot.dc.gov/page/ddot-urban-forestry>). The infestation is most visible through “D” shaped holes in tree bark or the 1/2 inch emerald green insect. Report potential sightings to 311.

