

SUBJECT	ISSUED BY	EFFECTIVE DATE
TREE TRIMMING POLICY	CITY COUNCIL	APRIL 5, 2010

POLICY STATEMENT:

This policy is to help guide City staff and the general public regarding the trimming of trees and shrubs.

The City is responsible for maintaining the electric distribution system and streets in the City of Washington. From time to time, it may be necessary to trim or remove trees to help ensure reliable service to its customers.

PROCEDURE:

The City will routinely inspect the electric distribution system and streets in town. Any trees determined to create a potential hazard will be placed on a list and the following steps will be taken to address the potential hazard.

1. If the Electric Distribution Superintendent determines that a tree poses a danger to existing power lines, city crews may trim the tree to help prevent damage to the distribution system.
2. City crews will trim trees down only when time allows. If a customer wants the tree(s) trimmed sooner they may hire a contractor to do so.
3. If City crews determine that by trimming a tree, they may cause damage to existing buildings or other private property, the City may cause the property owner to remove the tree or portion of the tree that may cause damage at the sole expense of the property owner.
4. A list will be maintained by the Electric Line Superintendent as to priority of trees to be trimmed.
5. Trees in the primary voltage lines will be the first to be trimmed.
6. Street trees shall be trimmed in accordance to the ordinance.
7. City crews may trim any street tree that poses a danger to public safety or is not in compliance with any ordinance. If a customer wants a tree removed, they will be responsible for removing the tree.
8. City crews will only trim trees to meet the conditions set forth in this policy or existing ordinances. The city will not completely cut down a tree unless it is deemed necessary by the City Administrator and/or City Council. The City will also not be responsible for removing a tree stump if a tree is cut down.

Approved By: _____

Harold H. Jones, Jr., Mayor