

# Tree Removal from the Right-of-Way/ Public Lands Evaluation Criteria

City of Mount Vernon, Ohio

The City of Mount Vernon and the Shade Tree Commission have taken great efforts to improve the health of our urban Forest in Mount Vernon. These efforts are largely executed by dedicated volunteers of the Shade Tree Commission.

The Shade Tree Commission/Engineering Department will evaluate requests to have trees removed off public lands. If ownership of the tree cannot be clearly determined by existing property pins or monuments, the applicant shall provide survey evidence of City ownership.

No person shall remove any public tree without first obtaining a permit from the City ([Tree Planting or Removal Permit](#))

Generally, only dead, diseased, dying or hazardous trees may be removed. Public trees should only be removed when one or more of the following criteria are met:

1. Tree is dead or partially dead with significant deadwood, which could fall in the right-of-way.
2. Tree is dying or declining to a degree that pruning cannot correct the hazard.
3. Tree contains structural problems (split trunk, split crotches, poor branch attachments) that could result in failure and fall in the right-of-way.
4. Work improvements required around the tree will kill or render it a hazard.
5. The tree is infested with an epidemic insect or disease where the recommended control is not applicable and removal is necessary to prevent transmission of the insect or disease to other trees.
6. The tree poses a public hazard because of its species, size, location or condition. The hazard could be caused by death of the tree, significant decline in health, insect or disease infestation.
7. The tree interferes with the growth and development of a more desirable tree.
8. The tree conflicts with existing public utilities and the issue cannot be mitigated through pruning or maintenance.
9. The aesthetic value of the tree is so low that the site is visually enhanced by the tree's removal.
10. Preservation of the tree, when adjacent property is developed, is not cost effective. The Shade Tree Commission or Engineering staff shall determine the value of the tree.