

TREE REMOVAL PERMIT APPLICATION FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (FAQS)

City of Southfield Planning Department



Am I required to obtain a tree removal permit for a dead tree?

No. Permits are NOT required for Ash trees, dead trees, orchard style fruit trees, and trees under six (6) inches in diameter (unless it is in a designated woodland area). If you are unsure about the viability, size, or type of tree you have, please contact the Planning Department. If your tree does not fall under any of these categories, please proceed to our Tree Removal Application to request a permit for removal.



Do I need a Tree Removal Permit from the Planning Department for my tree located within the Right-of-Way (typically, the area between the sidewalk and the street)?

For trees located within the street Right-of-Way, please contact the City of Southfield Streets & Highways Department at (248) 796-4860 for evaluation and further information



Do I need a permit to trim trees on my property?

No, you do not need a permit, however, any tree contractor performing tree trimming or removal services within the City must be licensed with the City Clerk's office. Please call them at (248) 796-5150, or you may request a current list of licensed tree contractors from the City Clerk or the Planning Department.





If my neighbor's tree overhangs my property, am I allowed to have that portion trimmed?

Yes. Any tree or shrub branches that overhang your property may be trimmed (without a permit), however, we recommend communication with your neighbor prior to doing so.



I have a dead tree that looks like it may fall onto my neighbor's property. Am I responsible to remove the tree, or will the City of Southfield remove it for me?

Property owners are responsible for removing dead and dying trees on their property that might pose a potential risk to public safety or to their own or adjoining properties. However, the City offers a Dangerous Tree Removal Loan Program to assist in alleviating financial burdens of dangerous tree removals. Please call the Code Enforcement Department at (248) 796-4140 for more information on the Dangerous Tree Ordinance or Dangerous Tree Removal Loan Program.



Additional Questions?

Please contact us!

City of Southfield Planning Department

(248) 796-4150

contactplanning@cityofsouthfield.com