

Village Tree Trimming Program

Parkway trees throughout the Village are pruned on a 5-year cycle. The Village's contractor works throughout the year to complete the assigned sections annually. Once a section is complete, it will not be pruned again for 5 years. Should subsequent trimming requests be made, Village crews will complete the work. Keeping trees pruned on a regular schedule helps to keep trees healthy and free from defects. We hope the following will answer any questions you may have about this important program.

Regular Pruning Helps Trees Grow Large, Beautiful and Safe

Pruning is one of the most important tree maintenance techniques. Unpruned trees are more susceptible to disease. They often become hazardous as they mature, with low hanging, dead or weak branches. Mount Prospect's pruning crews trim parkway trees for maximum safety, health and aesthetic value. They remove dead or rubbing branches to prevent the spread of decay and to reduce the risk of falling branches. Live branches may also be removed to allow more light into the center of the tree, to improve its shape or branch structure, or to permit wind to pass freely through the tree without breaking limbs.

Low Branches are Removed for Safety Reasons

Since they are so close to streets and sidewalks, parkway trees must be "raised" to a height that allows safe passage for pedestrians, bike riders, service and emergency vehicles, etc. This aspect of trimming usually causes residents the most concern, because in some cases the change in the tree's appearance is quite dramatic immediately after trimming. They are pleasantly surprised to find that trees generally grow substantially the year after trimming.

Trimming Young Trees Promotes Sturdy Branch Structure

A young tree whose branches do not yet extend over the street or sidewalk area often must have the lower branches removed to prevent a future hazard. Removal of such branches should be done when the tree is young, because the wound created will be much smaller and heal more quickly.

Mount Prospect Prunes Trees on an Average Five Year Cycle

All parkway trees in an entire area are trimmed approximately every 5 years, depending on available funding and manpower. This helps eliminate the costly practice of trimming individual trees as they become hazardous.

The Crews Will Pick Up Their Brush

Brush piles will usually be cleaned up within a day or two of trimming. In no case will brush remain over a weekend or holiday. Please do not expect the crew to dispose of brush you may have generated from trimming of your private property trees; this service is not provided. Please follow current Village yard waste regulations to dispose of private brush.

Small Trees and Evergreens Will Be Trimmed Separately

Trees under 3" in trunk diameter as well as evergreens will likely be trimmed at a different time of the year than other parkway trees. So don't worry if some of the trees in your parkway haven't been trimmed; our crews will be back to finish. Also, note that evergreens will be raised over the street and sidewalks to provide clearance and they will have any deadwood removed.

Call Public Works With Questions

Residents who have further questions or special concerns about a particular tree should call Public Works as soon as possible. We will be happy to meet with you before the crews arrive. The Village of Mount Prospect hopes you will be pleased with the long-term benefits of the tree trimming program.