

Tree Felling Permits

CITY OF SPRINGFIELD, OREGON

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Do I need a permit to cut down my tree?

A tree felling permit is required only when:

- Five (5) or more trees are cut down,
- That are 5 inches diameter at breast height (dbh) or larger,
- In a 12-month period (e.g. since February 2023),
- On property larger than 10,000 square feet (adjacent lots and parcels under common ownership are one property for tree felling purposes)

Tree felling permits are not required for:

- Any tree felling done by the City, SUB, or another public utility to (1) alleviate danger to life or property, (2) to restore utility service, or (3) to reopen public streets to traffic.
- Tree felling on any property less than 10,000 square feet in size. Where adjacent properties are under common ownership, the combined property size must be less than 10,000 square feet.
- Felling five or fewer trees on a rolling 12-month basis. For instance, if three trees were cut down on a 12,000 square foot property since January 2023, two more trees can be cut in January 2024 without a permit.
- Any tree that is smaller than 5 inches diameter at breast height (dbh) does not need a permit to be removed, but if tree is required landscaping under another development permit, it must be replaced with another appropriate tree.

NEW! Temporary fee waiver

Springfield City Council has extended the Declared State of Emergency due to the January 2024 ice storm. From now until that emergency declaration expires, fees for Tree Felling Permits will be waived to remove hazardous trees created by the storm. These will also have an expedited tree felling permit process.

- This is only required for cutting down/felling more than 5 hazardous trees (5" dbh or more) on a property larger than 10,000 square feet.
- Removal of any amount of trees on a property under 10,000 square feet in size does not require a permit.
- Cutting down 5 or fewer trees on property over 10,000 square feet does not require a permit.

Documentation of removal of more than 5 hazardous trees (5" dbh or more) on a property over 10,000 square feet is still required through making an application for an emergency tree felling permit.

Before removal, marking and photographing the hazardous trees must be done. City staff may be available to assist with photo documentation through a site visit.

Emergency tree felling permits are currently only available to be issued until the City Emergency Declaration expires. Permits can be obtained before this date and the work completed within a specified duration.

Certain trees must be replaced after removal. Any required landscaping trees previously approved by the City with a development application must be replaced if removed.

Please contact the Planning Department to discuss individual properties.

2024 Ice Storm information

Most residences in Springfield do not need a tree felling permit to remove trees that were damaged during the January 2024 ice storm.

You may need a permit if your property is larger than 10,000 square feet, or if you own more than one adjacent property that together are larger than 10,000 square feet, and you would be cutting down more than five trees that are more than 5 inches diameter at breast-height, within a 12-month rolling year.

If trees are already down or uprooted due to storm damage, and only need to be removed from the property, then a felling permit is not required.

Springfield Development Code

Read the guidelines on tree felling from Springfield's Development Code. The applicable section is: **Tree Felling Permit 5.19.100**

Contact the Planning Department

- Visit the City's website to Ask a Planner at: bit.ly/spflddevelopmentcenter
- Email the Planner on Duty at: permitcenter@springfield-or.gov
- Phone: **541-726-3753**, choose 1, choose 1 again, and leave a message for the Planner on Duty.
- In person: **Community Development Center, Springfield City Hall, 225 5th St., Springfield.** Hours: **Tuesday-Friday, 8-12 a.m., and 1-4 p.m.**