

# TOWN OF STONINGTON

Department of Public Works  
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## ***Town Tree Removal Guidelines***

Trees provide numerous benefits to the citizens of the Town of Stonington, benefits enjoyed by residents and visitors alike. Trees provide oxygen while they filter airborne pollutants, provide rain absorption and reduce erosion, moderate the “heat island” effect of acres of concrete and pavement, add value to real estate, reduce stress and crime, provide food and shelter for small animals, and create community pride. Indeed, trees provide a wide range of environmental, economic and social benefits. Therefore, these guidelines must be followed for all tree removal in the public road right-of-way.

### **Public Works Responsibilities:**

The Public Works Highway Department will safely remove dead, dying, decayed and diseased trees within the public road right-of-way. This is accomplished using Town personnel and also by managing contract removals. Trees removed may also include trees in conflict with sidewalks and right of way.

In accordance with Connecticut Tree Warden State Statute, the determination of the tree health is made by the Town Tree Warden. He determines the need for removal or pruning based on the public safety. Only such trees or shrubs are to be removed or pruned at the expense of the town.

### **Private Property Owner Responsibilities:**

#### *New Development:*

On any developed or undeveloped site, any person wishing to conduct development activity, including removal of a tree within the road right-of-way shall make a request in writing for approval from the Public Works Department or identify the intent to remove a tree within the road right-of-way as part of their zoning permit / land use application. Costs associated with this work shall be the responsibility of the applicant.

#### *Sight Line Tree Removal:*

On any developed or undeveloped site, any person wishing to conduct development activity, including removal of a tree within the road right-of-way shall make a request in writing for approval from the Public Works. Costs associated with this work shall be the responsibility of the applicant. Approval for removal of a healthy tree related to sight line issues must be supported by a report from a State of Connecticut Licensed Engineer.