



Parks & Public Lands

URBAN FORESTRY DIVISION

1965 W 500 S SALT LAKE CITY, UT 84104

PHONE: 801-972-7818

Tree Removal Mitigation Policy

Public Property Trees

Trees on public property provide a wealth of benefits to Salt Lake City. When a public property tree is permitted to be removed (through the Public Property Tree Work permitting process), as a condition of the permit, the permittee may be required to mitigate the loss of public tree benefit as follows:

- Public property trees, which are removed, shall be replaced on an inch per inch basis.

For Example: Removal of a 10" d.b.h. tree from public property will require ten (10) caliper inches of new trees to be planted.

- Replacement trees must be planted back onto the parkstrip from where the original tree was removed
- Due to the scarcity of 3" caliper trees, all mitigation calculations will be based on 2" caliper trees, regardless of what is actually planted.
- Replacement trees shall be between 2" and 3" in caliper at time of planting.

Therefore, to replace a 10" d.b.h. tree that has been removed, either (5) 2" trees can be planted or (2) 3" trees and (2) 2" trees can be planted.

- If there is not adequate space to accommodate any or all of the required tree replacement inches on the parkstrip, the permittee shall pay to the City the cash value of any outstanding tree replacement inches.

The cash value of outstanding tree replacement inches shall be determined by multiplying the 'cost per inch of required tree replacement' by the total number of outstanding tree replacement inches.

- The city's 'cost per inch of required tree replacement' is determined by referencing the values assigned in the *Species Rating for Landscape Appraisal in Utah* guide #NR-ff1001 (forestry.usu.edu/publications/Utah-forest-facts).

Currently, the 'cost per inch of required tree replacement' is \$172.00.

For example: the cash value for removing a 10" d.b.h. tree is \$1,720.00 (\$172.00 x 10).

As the cost to purchase and plant trees fluctuates, so too shall the city's 'cost per inch of tree required tree replacement.'

- The Urban Forestry Program shall reserve the right to lessen the required tree replacement inches for any tree removed, based on tree condition, species, location, or the new tree planting plan.
- All tree removals must be approved and permitted by SLC Urban Forestry. Mitigation costs apply to tree removals that have been approved and permitted by SLC Urban Forestry.

*Salt Lake City Urban Forestry reserves the right to appraise and value trees of significant importance, notable by virtue of their outstanding size, quality or historical significance, that are proposed for removal, using a more thorough and qualitative appraisal method than the standard method that is typically employed.

Private Property Trees

See section 21A.48.135 of the Salt Lake City Code
http://www.sterlingcodifiers.com/codebook/index.php?book_id=672