

Sugar Land City Council approved tree-trimming requirements in August 2005 that address public safety concerns in the City's right-of-way and now the new guidelines will be enforced. Property owners will be required to trim trees affecting public rights-of-way to the following guidelines:

- Where the tree overhands a residential street, there must be a clear space under the tree that is 12 feet above the street surface and 8 feet above the sidewalk surface. Where the tree overhands a nonresidential street, there must be a clear space under the tree that is 14 feet above the street surface and 8 feet above the sidewalk surface.

- Correctly pruned trees help promote a safe environment. Pruning trees out of the City rights-of-way that will help ensure that traffic safety devices, such as stop signs and traffic signals, are visible from roadways. The ordinance also will ensure that large vehicles, such as fire trucks, ambulances and garbage trucks, are able to safely navigate City streets. Overhanging tree limbs can delay emergency vehicles when seconds make the difference between life and death. In addition, a properly pruned tree protects a valuable asset from vehicular damage. Sugar Land's extensive and mature tree canopy in many parts of the City provides shade and significantly reduce energy bills. Mature healthy trees can increase a property's value by as much as 25 percent.

The City will use the following enforcement process: A letter of noncompliance is given to property owners stating that they have 30 days to correct the violation(s).

After 30 days, a re-inspection occurs. If the resident does not comply, the violation is turned over to Code Enforcement for further action, which may include a municipal court citation.

Once trees are pruned, Sugar Land solid waste disposal requirements state that tree limbs placed for collection at the curb must be no longer than four (4) feet in length and have a diameter of four (4) inches or less.

Please contact the Public Works Department for any questions or concerns at 281-275-2450. You may also log onto www.sugarlandtx.gov to view the tree trimming requirements in their entirety. There are also many helpful tips on proper pruning methods and resources to contact for help along the way.