

Talking Trees - March 2011

Trimming for Tree Health and Safety

City of Wisconsin Dells crew trims street trees when their schedule allows, a service which provides many benefits for the trees and residents. Our city has an ordinance which says that public trees must be trimmed “so that the lowest branches projecting over the public street or right-of-way provide a clearance of not less than 13 ½ feet and over all other public places of not less than 10 feet.”

Street-side trimming prevents costly damage to garbage trucks and school buses which pull close to the curb. And it also prevents damage to the trees, when low-hanging branches are broken by trucks. Our street crew is trained to trim trees in a way which does not damage the trees.

The 10-foot clearance in parks and over sidewalks prevents trees injury to pedestrians, and protects trees from having branches broken by within easy reach.

If you have street trees which need trimming, contact the Public Works Department to have your request evaluated and added to their prioritized work schedule.

The best time to trim trees is in March and April, when the coldest part of the winter is past. Late fall is the worst time for pruning, according to the Arbor Day Foundation website, “because decay fungi spread their spores profusely in the fall and healing of wounds seems to be slower on fall on cuts.” See <http://www.arborday.org/trees/tips/> for advice on trimming/pruning trees.

You can also contact a local arborist or landscaper who is knowledgeable about tree trimming best practices. The Tree Board recommends FRW Landscape Management at 254-4087, Clark Forestry at 356-2801, Robert A. Kelly Tree Care at 355-6273, and Gregerson Tree Service at 254-8277. A free pruning workshop in Wisconsin Dells is being scheduled by FRW Landscape Management this spring. Contact Fred Westerfeldt at info@frwlandscaping.com to register.