



## Diseased & Dead Tree Regulations

The following information explains some requirements for removing a diseased or dead tree from your property. The City's Tree Program helps ensure our urban forest is protected and the community continues to benefit from the beauty and benefits of trees.

Please contact the City Tree Inspector if you have questions about tree diseases or visit the city website at [www.cityofbrooklyncenter.org](http://www.cityofbrooklyncenter.org).

### Diseased Trees

A stressed tree can become vulnerable to insect and tree disease invasion. Identifying causes of tree stress can help mitigate long term effects. However, once a tree is identified as diseased, it must be properly removed in a timely manner in order to prevent the transmission of disease to other trees in the community. A live or dead tree can be diseased or infested.

### Dead Trees

Proper and timely removal of dead trees reduces the hazards created when dead trees are left standing. Although a dead tree may exist within the confines of a property, it may cause damage or harm to adjacent property or people depending on the size, wind, and other factors. The risk can increase over time and a property owner may be held liable for damages caused to people or property due to a fallen tree.

### General Information

1. The City inspects trees throughout the city on a proactive and complaint basis. If you receive a Compliance Notice from the City, please respond promptly and call if you have questions. The City maintains a contract with a tree service for removal of dead and diseased trees and a quote is provided for your convenience if you choose the City's tree program. You are under no obligation to hire the City's contractor. The City recognizes the costs of tree removal may be high depending on the size and location of the tree and works with property owners regarding time frames for removal of trees. You may choose to remove the tree(s) yourself, hire a company registered with the City, or participate in the City's tree program. If you choose to arrange your own tree removal, we recommend you obtain multiple bids, check with the Better Business Bureau and follow other good contract practices. Prices and quality of services can vary significantly by contractor and by the job.

2. Your tree may need to be trimmed by Xcel Energy before it can be removed; if you choose to hire the City's contractor, the contractor will make these arrangements.
3. "Topping" a tree is not recommended. The process can be harmful and does not foster long term care of a healthy tree. A topped tree is more likely to suffer from stress and become vulnerable to damage, insects and disease. An Arborist can determine the best methods to reduce the height of a tree to preserve the tree's natural beauty, health and safety for the environment.
4. ALL stumps must be removed to at least 4 inches below ground level. If a tree is diseased, the wood may not be kept or stored on the premises unless it has all been debarked. If you keep wood as firewood, it must be cut and stacked properly. You must fill in the hole with black dirt and seed or sod the area where the tree was removed.
5. **If the tree/stump(s) are on the property's public right-of-way**, the City will pay 50% of the tree removal cost if you choose to have the city remove the tree. If the tree is in the public right-of-way, the price shown on your contract is your 50% share of total cost including administrative fees.

For more information, please visit the City's website at [www.cityofbrooklyncenter.org](http://www.cityofbrooklyncenter.org) including . . .

- *Tips for Hiring a Tree Contractor*- City Handout
- *Options for Tree Removal*- City Handout
- [MNTrees.org](http://MNTrees.org) by the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources