

# TOWN OF COLLIERVILLE

General Services Department

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*Director of General Services*



500 Poplar View Parkway • Collierville, TN 38017 • (901) 457-2250 • FAX (901) 457-2258

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The purpose of this policy is to set forth for Collierville residents as well as Town departments and employees, the procedures, practices and standards for the removal of all public trees in the Town of Collierville.

## GENERAL POLICY:

The Town of Collierville is committed to preserving and enhancing the character and beauty of its natural environment. It actively supports efforts to improve its community by planting and maintaining healthy public trees, which provide shade, produce oxygen, muffle noise and offer aesthetic beauty. The tree removal policy for the Town of Collierville shall be based on sound arboricultural practices.

This policy shall apply only to trees located on public property within the corporate limits of the Town of Collierville.

It is the intent of the Town of Collierville to maintain tree coverage along trails, greenbelts, natural areas, buildings and other public property.

Tree and/or limbs will not be removed:

- To preserve or create views,
- To reduce shade or leaf litter,
- Or because of the presence of wildlife. I.e. birds, squirrels, etc.

The following will apply for the removal of public trees, limbs and/or branches.

## A. REMOVAL OF TREES

1. The only trees that the Town will remove from Town Property are Hazardous Trees as defined below.
2. For purposes of this policy, "Hazardous Trees" shall include any tree located on Town Property if, in the opinion of the Town Administrator (or his/her designee), the tree:
  - (a) Is dead or dying, or
  - (b) Is causing damage to Town infrastructure.
  - (c) Is within the Town's Right of Way and has fallen or has become a hazard to the users of the road.
  - (d) Is visibly damaged where such damage has resulted in structural instability; or
  - (e) Shows evidence of uprooting, erosion, or other similar issue where such uprooting, erosion, or issue has caused the tree to become unstable; or
  - (f) Shows evidence of a significant increase in lean angle resulting from structural instability; or

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- (g) Is damaged during a storm or other natural event and, though still standing, has broken limbs and/or evidence of a damaged structure that causes the tree to become unstable or a danger to persons or property.

## **B. REMOVAL OF LIMBS**

1. The only tree limbs that the Town will remove from trees located on Town Property are Hazardous Limbs as defined below.
2. For purposes of this policy, "Hazardous Limbs" shall include the limb(s) of any tree located on Town Property if, in the opinion of the Director of General Services, the limb:
  - (a) Is dead or diseased and poses a significant safety risk to the public or other property; or
  - (b) Is structurally damaged and poses a significant safety risk to the public or other property.
  - (c) Is in the Right of Way creating a safety hazard, such as the inability to see traffic or traffic control devices.

## **C. STORM DAMAGED TREES OR LIMBS**

1. The Town will remove or clean up trees situated on Town property (and/or their limbs) that have fallen onto private property due to storm-damage or natural disaster.
2. The Town will not be responsible for any private property damage caused by storm-damaged Town trees or limbs that fall onto or across private property, nor will the Town repair any such property damage.
3. Any expense for repairing property damage caused by storm-damaged Town trees or limbs that fall onto or across private property will be the property owner's sole responsibility.

## **D. OVERHANGING TREES, LIMBS, OR BRANCHES**

The Town will not remove live limbs, branches, and/or trees that overhang private property if, in the sole discretion of the Director of General Services, there is no visible evidence of decay, dead or dying limbs, or structural damage that has caused the tree and/or limb(s) to become unstable.

## **E. LEANING TREES**

Leaning trees on Town property, where the lean results from natural growth, will not be removed unless a visible increase in lean is noted due to structural instability and such instability poses a significant safety risk to the public or other property.

## **F. PRIVATE PROPERTY OWNERS**

Private property owners may, at their expense, remove any limbs or branches that overhang their property.