

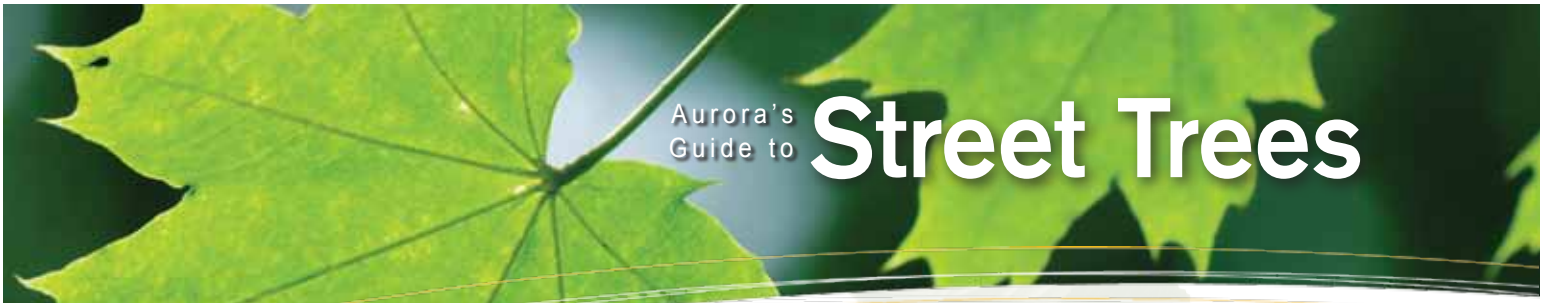


City of Aurora Forestry Division  
 15151 E. Alameda Pkwy., Aurora, CO 80012  
 303-739-7177 • auroragov.org/trees



**IMPORTANT INFORMATION REGARDING  
 PROPER TREE PRUNING**

*Help us create a healthy environment*



Aurora's Guide to **Street Trees**



**Do you have a city street tree?**

City-owned street trees are deciduous (leaf-dropping), planted in front of single-family detached homes, generally within five feet of the sidewalk or in a planting strip between the street and sidewalk. City trees are never planted in backyards.

**Do you think a city street tree needs pruning?**

Check the Grid Pruning Scheduling Map to see when we will be in your neighborhood. Or contact the Forestry Division, 303-739-7177, to request an inspection. The forester

will decide if the tree needs pruning more immediately or if the next pruning cycle will correct the issues.

**Have a city street tree but don't want to wait for the scheduled pruning cycle?**

You have two options:

1. Perform the tree work yourself. Residents can prune low hanging limbs and clearance prune from the ground to 15 feet. But remember, while pruning of lower branches is allowed, it is still illegal for citizens to remove, kill, or damage a city

street tree or park tree, whether intentionally or accidentally.

2. Hire a private licensed arborist to perform the work at your own expense. You will not be reimbursed.

[www.auroragov.org/trees](http://www.auroragov.org/trees)

- View the Grid Pruning Scheduling Map
- Find a list of Licensed Arborists



City of Aurora  
 Parks, Recreation & Open Space (PROS)  
 The Quality of Life Department

**Pruning encourages the structural development of a strong, healthy tree. You can also prune to remove low-hanging, nuisance branches.**

## Basic Pruning

### Guidelines: Safety First!

Before pruning, consider your safety, the safety of your neighbors and the protection of any personal property nearby. Never prune trees that are touching or near utility lines; call the Forestry Division 303-739-7177 for assistance with these trees. Use the following decision guide for size of branches to be removed:

- Under 2 inches diameter – go ahead
- Between 2" and 4" – think twice
- Greater than 4" – have a good reason and seek professional assistance

## When to Prune?

Spring- NO; trees are using all of their resources to leaf out

Summer & Fall- OK

Winter- BEST time to

prune; trees are dormant

## What Tools to Use?

Under 2 inches diameter – loppers or pruning shears

Between 2" and 4" – hand-saw or pole pruner

Always use **sharp** tools, so the cut is clean and free of jagged edges.

## Disposing of Branches

Most trash collection companies will pick-up branch debris, as long as the bundles of wood are no

longer than 4 feet in length and 12 inches in diameter. Check with your specific trash collection company.

## Still Unsure?

Call the Forestry Division, 303-739-7177, and we'll arrange a tree pruning demonstration for your homeowners association or civic group.



## Where to Prune?

To remove large branches (over 2" in diameter), use three or four cuts to avoid tearing the bark.

**Cut 1:** Make the first cut on the underside of the branch about 18 inches from the trunk (to prevent tearing the bark on the branch underside). Undercut one-third to one-half way through the branch.

**Cut 2:** Make the second cut an inch further out on the top of the branch; cut until the branch breaks free.



**Cut 3:** Before making the final cut (severing a branch from the main stem), identify where the branch ends and the trunk begins. (Usually there is a bulge or swelling at the base of the branch). Cut at a right angle to the branch just outside of the bulge, ensuring only branch tissue is removed. Prune just beyond the bulge, but DON'T leave a stub. If you can't easily determine where the branch ends and the trunk begins, look for a ridge of bark.

**AURORA FORESTRY**

Caring for Aurora's Urban Forest

**303-739-7177 • [auroragov.org/trees](http://auroragov.org/trees) • [trees@auroragov.org](mailto:trees@auroragov.org)**