

APPLICATION FOR PERMIT TO REMOVE TREE(S)

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE #: \_\_\_\_\_

LOCATION, DESCRIPTION, AND PURPOSE OF TREE(S) REMOVAL:  
Attach diagram

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

.....  
OFFICE USE ONLY

COMMENTS: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

APPROVED \_\_\_\_\_ DENIED \_\_\_\_\_ DATE \_\_\_\_\_

SIGNED: \_\_\_\_\_

REFERRED TO BOARD OF ZONING APPEALS \_\_\_\_\_

## REMOVAL OF TREES

City Code 14.0679(A)

On lands within 200 feet of the ordinary high-water mark of the St Croix River and 40 feet landward of the bluff line, the following standards shall apply:

Removal of trees exceeding 4 inches in diameter at a height of four feet is not permitted without a permit and conditional review of the City. The Zoning Administrator shall issue the permit if they fall within the provisions noted below, or when such cuttings in conflict with such provisions have been reviewed and approved by the City Board of Zoning Appeals.

The above cutting provisions shall not prevent:

- a. The removal of diseased or insect-infested trees, or of rotten or damaged trees that present safety hazards, or the trimming of normal overhanging tree growth.
- b. The pruning of trees, the cutting of shrubs, under-story vegetation, bushes or grasses, or the harvesting of non-wood fiber crops.
- c. Cuttings deemed by the City to be best management practices designed to ensure long-term health of the forest and/or its under-story vegetation, or measures to prevent erosion or other degradation of the slope.
- d. Cuttings accessory to a permitted or conditionally permitted activity.
- e. Property owners who wish to create or maintain a limited view of the river from the property's principal structure provided the structure remains primarily visually inconspicuous from the river. Owners shall submit a plan subject to mandatory review of the Board of Zoning Appeals. The Board shall review extent of cutting and color and design of the structure to ensure it remains primarily visually inconspicuous from the river.

**Penalties:** The penalty for removing vegetation without a required permit or order that results in a violation of these standards shall be in-kind replacement at the owners expense, plus penalties in place for violating provisions of the City Code of Ordinances.

**8.14 TREE REGULATIONS. (1) TREES TO BE KEPT TRIMMED.** Trees standing in or upon any public street or place, or upon any land adjacent thereto, shall be pruned and trimmed by the owner or occupant of the property on or in front of which such trees are growing so that the lowest branches projecting over the public street or alley shall provide a clearance of not less than 14 feet and a clearance of not less than 10 feet over any other public place and so that no dead, broken or otherwise hazardous branches shall be likely to fall and do injury to the public. Any tree not trimmed, as herein provided, shall be deemed hazardous.

(2) **HAZARDOUS AND INFECTED TREES.** Any tree or part thereof, whether alive or dead, which the Director of Public Works shall find to be infected, hazardous or a nuisance so as to endanger the public or other trees, plants or shrubs growing within the City, or to be injurious to sewers, sidewalks or other public improvements, whether growing upon public or private premises, shall be removed, trimmed or treated by the owner of the property upon or adjacent to which such tree or part thereof is located. The Director shall give written notice to said owner to remedy the situation which shall be served personally or posted upon the affected tree. Such notice shall specifically state the period of time within which the action shall be taken, which shall be within not less than 24 hours nor more than 14 days, as determined by the Director on the basis of the seriousness of the condition of the tree or danger to the public. If the owner shall fail to remove, treat or trim said tree within the time limit, the Director shall cause the tree to be removed, treated or trimmed and shall report the full cost thereof to the City Clerk who shall thereupon enter such cost as a special charge against the property, pursuant to §66.0627, Wis. Stats.

(3) **COTTONWOOD AND BOX ELDER TREES PROHIBITED.** No person shall plant or maintain within the City any female tree of the species *Populus Deltoides*, commonly called the cottonwood, or any tree commonly called the seed-bearing box elder or *Acer Negundo*, which may now or hereafter become infested with box elder bugs, and such trees are hereby declared a nuisance. Any person having any such tree on his premises shall cause the same to be removed. If any owner shall fail to remove any such tree within 30 days after receiving written notice from the Director of Public Works, the Director shall cause the removal of such tree and shall report the full cost thereof to the City Clerk who shall place such charge upon the next tax roll as a special charge against the premises.

(4) **PLANTING OF CERTAIN TREES RESTRICTED.** No person shall hereafter plant any *Catalpa*, Chinese Elm, White Poplar, Lombardy Poplar, or any fruit or nut tree in or upon any public street, parkway, boulevard or other public place within the City unless he shall first have secured written permission from the Director of Public Works, who shall not approve any such planting if, in his opinion, said tree shall constitute a nuisance to the public or adjoining property owners or interfere with the safety of the public or the operation of any sewer or water system. The Director shall cause the removal of any tree planted in violation of this subsection.

(5) **TRIMMING OF OAK TREES REGULATED.** No person shall trim oak trees within the City of St Croix Falls from March 1 to September 30 in order to prevent the spread of oak wilt fungus. This regulation shall prohibit the trimming, dead wooding or removal of any suckers of any oak tree during the regulated time period.

(a) Any trimming of oak trees from September 30 to February 28 shall be undertaken with sanitized and sharpened cutting tools and each cut shall be sprayed with tree dressing.

(b) No oak or other tree greater than 4" in diameter shall be removed or taken down without a city permit.

(c) No person shall use climbing spikes or otherwise cause any cut within oak trees of the City during the period of March 1 – September 30.