



A GUIDE TO

COUNCIL TREES

Tree planting in parks and streets has become an integral part of the urban landscape throughout the world. Trees make an important contribution to the health and wellbeing of residents and to the quality of the landscape, by releasing oxygen and absorbing pollutants such as carbon dioxide, by collecting dust, providing shelter from the sun, wind and rain, increasing land stability, providing habitats for wildlife and increasing property values. With proper care and management, trees can live for a long time and provide ongoing health benefits for future generations.

WHO MANAGES OUR STREET AND PARK TREES?

Street and park trees are managed by Waipa District Council's Community Services team. Council's aim is to provide a safe, visually pleasant amenity throughout the district.

HOW ARE THEY MAINTAINED?

Council employs trained arborists under contract to ensure the trees are maintained for good health, form and safety. A tree monitoring and inspection programme is in place for trees that require regular checks. Pruning methods used are in accordance with current international arboricultural standards.

CAN I PRUNE OR REMOVE A STREET OR PARK TREE?

No. Inappropriate pruning can damage tree health and appearance and cause public safety risks, so no

unauthorised people are permitted to prune or remove any street or park tree without Council's prior consent. Penalties may be imposed for pruning or removing a Council tree without permission.

HOW DO I GET A STREET OR PARK TREE PRUNED?

A number of factors are taken into account before a tree is pruned. If a tree is a visual hazard to road users or pedestrians, a public nuisance or a safety issue, it will be considered for pruning. The effect of pruning on the tree's health and amenity value will also be considered.

If you would like a tree pruned, you can make a request via our website www.waipadc.govt.nz/do-it-online, under 'Request for services', or you can contact Council on 0800 WAIPA (924 723).

WHAT ABOUT TREE REMOVAL?

Council trees can be considered for removal if the tree is a potential danger to life or property, and/or is showing signs of structural defects, as per Council's tree policy.

Trees adjacent to private property can be considered for removal if severe hardship from the trees effects can be proved. On its own, leaves falling onto private property is not considered a severe hardship.

TREE PLANTING

Council undertakes planting of street trees with the aim of enhancing street appearance and amenity values.

Priorities for planting include:

- Replacing existing trees that require removal.
- Parks and reserves areas.
- Streets where residents request trees.
- Newly developed areas.

Residents may request a tree be planted by contacting Council on 0800 WAIPA (924 723). All requests will be considered, with the decision depending on the location (e.g.



size of the site, the presence of above ground and below ground services).

TREE DEBRIS

Council does not remove tree debris (eg leaves, seeds and twigs) from private property, as leaf fall is part of living in a community with trees. Council will however consider pruning a Council tree away from an adjacent property to reduce the leaf fall.

PROTECTED TREES

Council provides a fund to assist private landowners with the cost of maintaining and inspecting trees on the Protected Tree List. The list can be found under Appendix N2 of the Council's District Plan.

For further information, please head to our Protected Trees website page www.waipadc.govt.nz/protectedtrees.

PRIVATE TREES

Unless they are protected trees, Council does not get involved in matters relating to trees on private property.

Your lawyer is the best person to advise you about your legal rights regarding trees on private property.



Disclaimer

While Waipa District Council strives to provide accurate, up-to-date data, the information contained in this brochure is intended as a guide only. It has no legal status, and does not replace any statutory documentation from Council.

Waipa District Council accepts no liability for any losses incurred by any person relying upon this brochure's completeness or the accuracy of its contents.

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