

Frequently asked questions

Who prunes city-owned street trees?

The City of Hot Springs' Urban Forestry staff maintains and prunes all city-owned trees. Contact the Urban Forester for a pruning request.

Which trees are owned by the city?

City-owned trees are those growing within the public right-of-way in the area of land between the street and the sidewalk. If there is no sidewalk, city-owned trees may be planted approximately 4 feet from the curb.

I don't have a street tree. How do I get one?

Contact the Urban Forester to make a request. As trees become available, they will be matched to each appropriate site and planted when the property owner agrees to provide water.

When are trees planted?

The spring and fall months are typical times in Arkansas for tree planting. Some winter planting may occur as weather permits.

Why are street trees removed?

Street trees may be removed because the tree has died, has been infected with an untreatable disease, has been deemed a hazard because of structural weakness, or because it blocks the view of traffic or public safety personnel.

How do I get my street bush hogged?

The Urban Forestry crew bush hogs all street rights-of-way on a district schedule. Hazardous conditions are handled promptly. Special circumstances are placed on a work list and done on Thursdays. Contact the Urban Forestry office with any bush hog requests.

Limbs are over the street and sidewalk.

How do I get them removed?

Contact the Urban Forestry office with obstruction issues. The staff will prune the portion within the right-of-way.

Services provided by Hot Springs Urban Forestry

Public Rights-of-Way

- Tree Planting
- Tree Pruning
- Tree Removal
- Bush Hogging
- Watering
- Fertilizing
- Mulching
- Inspection
- Inventory

Private Property Requests

- Tree Inspections
- Insect/Disease Diagnosis
- Tree Related Questions

Contact Information



Anthony Whittington

Urban Forester

Public Works Department
111 Opera Street, Ste. B
Hot Springs, AR 71901

Office (501) 651-7732
Cell (501) 545-3363
awhittington@cityhs.net

URBAN FORESTRY HOW-TO SERIES



HOW TO USE YOUR URBAN FORESTRY PROGRAM



**City of Hot Springs
Urban Forestry Division**

Tree programs

Commemorative Tree Program

Individuals have a unique opportunity to honor or remember a special person by making a contribution to the Commemorative Tree Program. Suggestions for donations include births, graduations, anniversaries, and memorials. Donations in any amount can be combined with other contributions to purchase trees to be planted on public lands in the community. Contact the Urban Forestry office for a donation form.

Landmark Tree Program

Individual city trees may be considered important community resources because of unique or noteworthy characteristics or values and can be singled out for special consideration. Contact the Urban Forestry office to nominate a landmark tree on public or private property. One or more of the following criteria are used to define a special status tree:

- Size
- Species
- Age
- Location
- Ecological Value
- Aesthetics

Famous and Historic Tree Program

The purpose of the program is to create a greater appreciation and awareness for our city's trees by recognizing their historical background and preserving those that qualify. The public is encouraged to nominate trees that are:

- 1) associated with a significant event in Hot Springs history
- 2) associated with a significant person, institution or landmark in Hot Springs history
- 3) significant with respect to horticultural or structural characteristics for Hot Springs
- 4) capable of yielding significant cultural information in Hot Springs history

Contact the Urban Forestry office for a nomination packet. This program mirrors the Arkansas Famous and Historic Tree Program.

Consulting services

The Urban Forester is available to all residents who need a trained arborist to inspect a tree in their yard. Although the Urban Forester cannot work on private property, he can offer an opinion on tree condition, make insect or disease diagnosis, or answer any tree-related questions.

Arbor Day

History

In 1872, J. Sterling Morton proposed to the Nebraska Board of Agriculture that a special day be set aside for the planting of trees. This holiday, called Arbor Day, was first observed with the planting of more than a million trees in Nebraska. Arbor Day is now observed throughout the nation and the world.

Arkansas Arbor Day - third Monday in March

National Arbor Day - last Friday in April

Celebrating Arbor Day is done in a wide variety of ways from planting trees in parks and other public areas to sponsoring poster contests or performing a community service project. The city partners with the Hot Springs/Garland County Beautification Commission to celebrate National Arbor Day at Entergy Park. Area fifth grade students participate in programming and receive a free tree seedling to plant at home.

Speaking opportunities

The Urban Forester is available to speak with civic groups, neighborhood associations, POA's and school classes. To arrange a time and date, please contact the Urban Forestry office.



Role of the Urban Forester

Pruning - use proper methods to promote tree health, safety, and clearance for pedestrians and vehicles.

Removal - evaluate and coordinate removal of hazardous trees.

Planting - coordinate installation of new trees to maintain a healthy and diverse canopy.

Bush hogging - maintain all other vegetation within the public right-of-way.

Inventory - conduct and maintain a current database of public trees showing species, size, condition and location.

Planning - establish short and long-term plans to manage and care for all public trees.

Development Plan Review - provide input regarding required landscaping.

Construction Inspection - monitor ordinance compliance relating to tree protection and landscape requirements.

Budget - perform work within approved annual budget and seek additional funding through grants and donations.

Education - provide current tree care information using all available media opportunities.

Tree Advisory Committee

The purpose of the Urban Forestry Advisory Committee is to promote, protect, and enhance the beauty, environmental benefits and general welfare of the Hot Springs urban forest in an advisory role. The 5-member committee meets on the fourth Tuesday once a quarter. The public is welcome. Appointed members are:

1. **Byron Rhodes**
2. **Regine Skelton**
3. **Jack Thorp**
4. **Adrienne Brooks**
5. **Vacant**

