



## Richmond Department of Public Works Urban Forestry Division

### Tree Removal:

It is the goal of Richmond City, Urban Forestry Division to maintain and protect trees on City property. While managing the urban forest it is sometimes necessary to remove trees. When City trees are removed by in-house crews or contractors it is based on the following criteria.

- The tree is dead
- The majority of the tree is dying to the point of the overall health and safety of the tree being compromised
- The tree is diseased to the point of the overall health and safety of the tree being compromised
- The tree has structural defects that compromise integrity of strength and poses a public safety concern

Public safety is our number one priority and trees are scheduled for removal based on safety and available resources.

The City of Richmond performs tree removals by utilizing in-house crews or contractors. Removals must meet one of the above criteria and have been inspected by a Certified Arborist to warrant removal.

Citizens may apply to have trees removed at their own expense. These applications may be found on our Urban Forestry website. All removal and pruning applications are reviewed by a City Arborist and either approved or denied. If your application is denied you will be given a reason for the denial.

As stated in our Municipal Tree Ordinance the removal of a healthy tree, as deemed by a City Arborist must have the approval of the department director. In these situations residents or contractors may apply for a "Variance to the Municipal Tree Policy" and have this application approved prior to removal. Remediation may be required in these situations and further information regarding these matters can be obtained on our website or by calling our office.

At times when trees have high social, economic and cultural value to the community a tree risk assessment may be performed and documented. It is up to the certified City Arborist and Urban Forestry Operations Manager to determine if a tree risk assessment shall be completed.

Citizens are welcome to contact our Urban Forestry Division through our 311 system (online at [www.RVA311.com](http://www.RVA311.com), using the RVA311 app or calling 3-1-1) or directly by calling 804-646-0681 with any questions or concerns.