Street Tree at 4th and Blanchard

1962
Street Tree at 4th and Blanchard

2012
**Tree protection**

**Old Ordinance:** Street Use Ordinance called only for preserving trees but provided no detail.

**2013 Ordinance:**
- Illegal to damage or destroy a street tree
- Regulates attachment of seasonal lighting to trees
- Prohibits topping, spurring, attaching signs or objects
- Prohibits placement of construction debris adjacent to trees
- Regulates the storage of materials adjacent to right-of-way trees.
Permitting

Old Ordinance: Required permits to plant, prune or remove a street tree. No requirement to replace a street tree.

2013 Ordinance:
• Describes the process & procedures for applying for a permit
• Defines criteria for granting planting, pruning or removal permits
• Requires a replacement tree when a removal permit is granted
• Allows minor pruning of 2” inch diameter limbs or less without a permit.
Tree maintenance

Old Ordinance: Did not define responsibility for maintenance of right-of-way trees.

2013 Ordinance:
• Clarifies SDOT & property owner responsibilities for tree maintenance
• Gives city authority to perform emergency work on privately owned ROW trees
• Established criteria by which a tree can be deemed a public nuisance (i.e. Dutch Elm Disease)
• Retains SDOT’s authority to order the maintenance of a right-of-way tree to ensure public safety.
Arborist Certification / Qualifications

Old Ordinance: Does not require any specific qualifications for companies performing tree work or standards for work performed by them.

2013 Ordinance:
- Requires any maintenance work on street trees to be performed or supervised by an ISA certified arborist.
- Establishes insurance requirements for tree care firms (STM)
- Allows a property owner to perform minor pruning without a permit
- Requires a permit for major pruning by property owner.
- Requires tree work to meet industry standards.
Penalties and Fines

Old Ordinance: Inadequate penalties for illegal tree work on privately maintained trees.

2013 Ordinance:
• Defines illegal activities related to the treatment of trees
• Establishes penalties for damaging or destroying trees equal to the value of the tree.
Support documents

Client Assistance Memos
- CAM 2108 – Annual Vehicle Permits
- CAM 2110 – Traffic Control Plans
- CAM 2300 – Street Tree Planting
- CAM 2302 – Tree Pruning or Removal
- CAM 2307 – Tree Posting Standards

Online Street Tree Map -
http://web6.seattle.gov/SDOT/StreetTrees/

2013 Urban Forest Stewardship Plan

Street Tree Manual

Some material will be designated as Directors Rule