

Summit Loves Trees



Examples of Landmark Trees



European Linden - 200 ft tall
at Riverview Park



Green Oak Tree
on Pine Grove Avenue



Red Oak tree
on Princeton Street

Help Protect Summit's Trees

Summit is known for its rich, healthy stock of mature, stately and beautiful trees.

Summit has been designated a "Tree City" for sixteen consecutive years. This is a designation given by the National Arbor Day Foundation to a select number of cities in the United States that help preserve their tree canopies. Being a "Tree City" helps Summit access grant money to keep its trees beautiful and lush.

Why is it important to properly maintain trees in Summit? Trees play an important role in contributing to personal and environmental health, and in maintaining our property values by:

- reducing air pollution by absorbing carbon dioxide and releasing oxygen
- reducing soil erosion
- protecting our water by reducing runoff and removing harmful nutrients
- saving energy by shading our homes and businesses
- enhancing the architecture of our homes, neighborhoods and our public buildings
- providing privacy

City of Summit Ordinance, Chapter 29, addresses the protection of trees.

Looking down on Summit using a Google satellite map, most of what you see is the green canopy over the City. This does not happen by accident! Summit has a City Forester and City ordinances to protect its trees.

With respect to trees on private property, Summit's tree ordinance states:

- You cannot remove any tree that is a "significant" tree without a tree removal permit. A "significant tree" is defined as one having a 16 inch or greater diameter, measured 54 inches from the base of the tree.
- Tree removal permits may only be issued with the approval of the City Forester.
- With respect to construction, within any tree's dripline, you cannot excavate or place any machinery, equipment, heavy objects (e.g., stone, earth) which might compress the area around the tree or impede its access to water. The "dripline" of a tree is the circular area surrounding a tree, the radius of which is the distance from the trunk of the tree to its outermost branches. (The City Forester may waive this provision if it creates undue hardship, but only to the extent absolutely necessary to alleviate the hardship.)
- Special provisions apply to dead, diseased or hazardous trees.

Landmark Trees are among some of Summit's most spectacular specimens. Summit has about 30 such trees, which are selected based on whether they meet at least one of the following criteria: rareness; age (more than 100 years old); abnormal height, trunk diameter, dripline, or foliage quality for a tree of its species; or exceptional location, shade value, fragrance, erosion control, aesthetics, features or scenic enhancement among Summit trees.

Questions about trees? Contact the City Forester at 908-273-6404.

