

**City of Rainier
Regular City Council Meeting
December 7, 2020
6 p.m.
Rainier City Hall**

Mayor Jerry Cole called the Regular Council Meeting to order at 6:01 p.m.

Council Present: Connie Budge, Robert duPlessis, Mike Kreger, Richard Sanders, Brenda Tschida

Council Absent: Steve Massey, Jenna Weaver

City Attorney Present: No

City Staff Present: Sarah Blodgett, City Recorder; Gregg Griffith, Police Chief; W. Scott Jorgensen, City Administrator; Sue Lawrence, Public Works Director

Flag Salute

Additions/Deletions from the Agenda: City Administrator W. Scott Jorgensen said that an issue has come up regarding the city's tree ordinance. Public Works Director Sue Lawrence said she could discuss it as part of her staff report.

Mayor's Address: Cole noted that it was the anniversary of the attack on Pearl Harbor and the city wanted to recognize that. He also wanted to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and said the city is following all the rules and regulations to prevent the spread of COVID. Cole appreciates the citizens' patience in dealing with it.

Visitor Comments: There were no visitor comments at this time.

Consider Approval of the Consent Agenda:

Consider Approval of the November 2, 2020 Regular Council Meeting Minutes—Council President Mike Kreger moved to approve the minutes. That motion was seconded by Councilor Robert duPlessis and adopted unanimously.

6. Unfinished Business:

- a. Riverfront Trail Update—Lawrence said drawings have been submitted for options behind the post office property for a lower level of the train. One recommendation is to have a zig zag pattern. Construction is set to start in January and shouldn't take long. She anticipates completion by the end of February. Jorgensen said he spoke with the owner of El Tapatio about obtaining an easement for the project's second phase and she was supportive. He sent the drawings over to the Eagles Lodge for their review. Lawrence said the proposed zig zag design will help with Americans with Disabilities Act compliance and will be a cost difference of between \$10,000 and \$15,000. Councilor Connie Budge asked about the deadline for the project. Lawrence said it is March 21. She will bring any change orders to council for approval.
- b. Fox Creek Update—Jorgensen said that officials from the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife did a site visit. He spoke with Sen. Betsy Johnson earlier in the day about funding options for the feasibility study. She suggested to him that the city seek smaller amounts of funding from multiple entities. He did a phone call with the governor's Regional Solutions office. They said that grant funding through the state Office of Emergency Management (OEM) is the city's best bet. That application deadline is late February. As part of that process, the county's hazard mitigation plan has to be approved by the Federal Emergency Management Agency. But the county's emergency manager position is in flux and Jorgensen doesn't want to rely on one single pot of money to fund the study.
- c. Senior Housing—Budge said she would like to be involved in those issues, like she was during her previous stints on council. Cole said he would support her involvement once the COVID pandemic has abated.

7. New Business

- a. Recognition of Outgoing Councilors James Bradfield, Sloan Nelson and Steve Massey-Cole thanked the outgoing councilors for their years of service.
- b. Acceptance of November 2020 General Election Results-Kreger moved to accept the results. That motion was seconded by Budge and adopted unanimously.
- c. League of Oregon Cities Elected Essentials Training-Jorgensen summarized the training and said it's particularly valuable for new councilors.
- d. League of Oregon Cities City Day at the Capitol-Kreger asked if the city has participated in this in the past. Cole said the city has and he recommends participation. Budge asked if it would be virtual this year. Jorgensen said the capitol has been closed for months due to COVID, so he expects it will be virtual. Cole said the last LOC conference was virtual and he participated in it.

- e. Forester Contract with CBR Forestry, LLC-Cole said the contract is a renewal. Kreger moved to approve the contract. That motion was seconded by duPlessis and adopted unanimously.
- f. Resolution 20-12-01—Adopting the Updated Employee Handbook-Kreger moved to adopt Resolution 20-12-01. That motion was seconded by Sanders. Budge asked if the handbook has been reviewed. Jorgensen said the city’s current handbook is ten years old. CIS recommended that the whole thing be replaced, but he used the current handbook as a guide and added sections to reflect changes in state law around areas like sick leave and pay equity. The revised handbook has been reviewed by attorneys from CIS, the city’s union representative and the department heads. Council voted unanimously to adopt the motion.
- f. Second Reading Ordinance 1077—Marijuana Facilities-Cole said the ordinance was more in line with state regulations and allowed for a larger showroom. Kreger moved to approve the ordinance. That motion was seconded by Sanders and adopted unanimously.
- g. Award of Bid for Replacement of City Hall Entrance Doors-Lawrence said the proposal is for a touchless system with card readers. The project should be eligible for COVID grant funds if it’s done quickly enough. The current doors are obsolete and should be replaced. The newer ones would have magnetic locks that can be used to determine the hours that people come and go from city hall. They will also have a look like the original city hall doors. Budge said the entrance has historic value. Replacing the doors will be safer for everyone.
- h. Award of Bid for Replacement of City Hall Internal Doors-Cole said the current internal door is a security issue for staff. The new doors would help the city comply with COVID regulations. The door replacements have to be done by December 30 to qualify for reimbursement. Budge moved to approve all of the bids for the internal and external door replacements. That motion was seconded by Kreger and adopted unanimously. Cole said that April 13 will be the 100-year anniversary of city hall. It’s important to him that its historic significance and value be maintained.
- i. Award of Bid for Flow Monitoring Contract-Lawrence said there have been problems with inflow and infiltration at the city’s sewer plant. High levels of stormwater get into the collection system and end up in the wastewater plant, which causes a violation of the city’s permit. She has received three bids to study and design the engineering work that needs to be done. She recommends the \$21,000 bid from SFE global. Kreger moved to award the bid to SFE global. That motion was seconded by Budge and adopted unanimously.

8. Staff Report-Lawrence said she’s awaiting the final numbers for the closeout of the “A Street” project. Records have been moved from upstairs to offsite to clear space for a staff break room. The water filter rehabilitation is underway. So is the line cleaning for the sewer lines as part of the 4th

Street loop project. The slip lining will be next. Improvements to Lewis Road are complete. She's received a request for the city to help with a tree removal and would like direction from council. The trees are in the city's right of way, but homeowners are responsible for maintaining them. What kind of assistance should the city offer, if it does decide to help? An arborist has determined that two of three of the trees are not salvageable. They would cost \$2800 to remove. Cole asked if they are a danger. Lawrence said they are a potential danger. They are diseased and dying. Cole said if they are diseased and in the city's right of way, the city should take care of it. If the trees are healthy, it should be the homeowner's responsibility. It could be put on the next council agenda for more input. Maybe the city could pay half of the removal cost. Kreger said that taking care of everything in the city's right of way could get expensive. Council agreed by consensus to revisit the matter at its January meeting. Blodgett said she's been reviewing records as part of the break room project. The city's new IT service provider is in the process of onboarding. Jorgensen said he participated in the interview panel for Columbia River Fire and Rescue's fire marshal position. He will be participating in its panel for its fire chief position December 11. Jorgensen was the guest speaker at the November 12 meeting of the Chamber of Commerce. He's been working on OSHA compliance with COVID guidelines and submitted a letter of support for the city for the Port Westward expansion. City staff just put out the RFP for engineering services and he spent much time on the revisions to the employee handbook.

9. Council Reports-duPlessis said the boy scouts received food donations for the needy the previous weekend. They collected over 1,000 pounds of food, which is 300 more than last year. Councilor Brenda Tschida asked about installing additional stop signs on west C Street. Cole said Lawrence has ordered them.

10. City Calendar/Announcements

Cole adjourned the meeting at 7:27 p.m.

Mayor Jerry Cole

W. Scott Jorgensen, City Administrator

M & W Building Supply Co. Inc.

P.O. Box 220 Canby, OR 97013/ (800) 547-1714 CCB# OR 79450/ WA # MWBUISC061K5

Date: November 11, 2020
Customer Name: Rainier Waste Water
Job site Address: 690 West A St. Rainier, OR
Phone Number: 503-396-1736

- Q U O T A T I O N - (Pricing good for 10 days from date of quote)

The quotation for **Adding Doors and Walls to Enclose Shop** in Columbia County OR is as follows:

Building Features:

- ◆ Re-engineering building to current **25#** snow, 97 wind and “C” exposure.
- ◆ Commercial wall girts – all 2x6 Kiln dried MSR lumber.
- ◆ (4) 12x14 non-insulated Wayne Dalton overhead door(s).
- ◆ All overhead doors with chain hoist operation.
- ◆ (1) 3x6’8” steel frame steel walk door(s).
- ◆ All wall framing and metal to enclose existing open eave wall.
- ◆ 29-gauge painted steel on designated wall and trim with 40-year paint warranty.
- ◆ Brackets for mounting overhead door framing posts to existing concrete.
- ◆ Concrete footings for overhead door framing posts in graveled area.

<u>Material & delivery:</u>	\$ 13,097.00
<u>Labor:</u>	\$ 8,100.00
<u>Total:</u>	\$ 21,197.00

Options not included above:

4” 1,689 sq. ft. concrete floor and aprons (final site preparation prior to pour not included): \$ 9,150.00

Not included: **Site prep**, (site needs to be level and prepared before construction) or **permit**.
Subject to engineering.

If you have any question regarding this quote, please feel free to give me a call at (503)263-9000. Thank you, Steve Senter

**APPLICATION FOR SERVING ON
CITIZEN ADVISORY BOARDS/COMMITTEES
CITY OF RAINIER**

Date: 10-8-20

Name: NINA Phillips

Mailing Address: ↓

Street Address: 30193 sandy Lane Rainier, OR 97048

Phone Number: 360 442 3927

Length of Residency in Rainier: 12/19

I am interested in serving on one or more of the following Boards/Committees of the City of Rainier. (See back for descriptions.)

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> City Council | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Planning Commission (volunteer) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Library Board (volunteer) | <input type="checkbox"/> Budget Committee (volunteer) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Park Advisory Group (volunteer) | <input type="checkbox"/> 'A' Street Advisory Committee (volunteer) |

1. Why are you interested in serving on this Board or Committee?
I would like to be more involved in our community

2. What strengths do you possess to contribute to this Board or Committee?
I've been involved in many non-profits, own a business in Rainier & feel I'll be a welcome addition.

3. Do you have previous or current experience in community affairs? If so, please explain. Volunteer coordinator for Rainier Days, have coordinated Hometowns annual events, I know this is a different aspect but know I'll be an asset.

Thank you for completing this questionnaire and your interest in serving your community.

ORDINANCE NO. 1078

**AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF RAINIER
ESTABLISHING BUSINESS LICENSE REGULATIONS FOR
FOOD CARTS**

**NOW THEREFORE, BASED ON THE FOREGOING, THE CITY OF RAINIER
ORDINANCE AS FOLLOWS:**

WHEREAS, the City desires to allow the legal operation of mobile food vending;

WHEREAS, the City seeks to protect public health and safety by ensuring mobile food vendors follow clear rules and regulations that address demonstrable risks;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF
RAINIER AS FOLLOWS:**

SECTION 1. DEFINITIONS

- A. Food Vending Vehicle: Any motorized vehicle used to sell food or beverages by a mobile food vendor.
- B. Mobile Food Vendor: Any person who dispenses food or beverages from a food vending vehicle for immediate service and/or consumption.

SECTION 2. MOBILE FOOD VENDING BUSINESS PERMITTED

- A. No person may operate as a mobile food vendor in the City of Rainier without obtaining a mobile food vending license from the City and any other licenses or permits that may be required by other applicable state or county law.
- B. A separate mobile food vending license shall be required for each food vending vehicle operated by a mobile food vendor.
- C. A violation of this Chapter may result in the suspension or revocation of a mobile food vending license and civil penalties.

SECTION 3. LICENSE APPLICATION AND GENERAL STANDARDS

- A. **Application requirements.** An applicant shall submit a written application to the City on a form provided by the City for a mobile food vending license. Failure to submit a complete application may result in denial of a license. The application shall contain the following information:
 - 1. The applicant's name, primary residents and/ or business address and telephone number;
 - 2. The name, address and telephone number of any associated entities or organization that the applicant is representing and copies of documents verifying that relationship,
 - 3. A site plan of the subject property drawn to scale and including:
 - a. The lot lines,
 - b. The location of existing structures,

- c. The proposed boundaries of the mobile food cart. Within the boundaries of the mobile food cart, the location of all food carts, seating areas and any accessory items or structures,
 - d. The proposed distance between the mobile food cart and adjacent lot lines, as well as the proposed separation distance between carts and other on-site structures,
 - e. The type and location of any proposed on-site utility connections for mobile food carts,
 - f. Individual square footage and length of each cart,
 - g. Pictures or architectural elevations of proposed mobile food carts,
 - h. The location of existing and proposed loading areas, driveways, on-site circulation drives, parking lots aisles, parking lot lighting, bicycle and automobile parking spaces and walkways,
 - i. The orientation of service windows and doors on the food carts and location of customer queuing areas,
 - j. The location of existing and proposed landscaping,
 - k. The dimension, height and location of proposed signs,
 - l. Proof of the availability of restroom facilities for employees and customers that meet the requirements of OAR Chapter 333-150-0000.
 - m. The method for disposing of wastewater and gray water,
 - n. Written verification of approval by Columbia County Health Department,
 - o. Written verification of approval by Columbia River Fire and Rescue,
 - p. A statement indicating any source of noise to be generated on the property and the method of mitigating the noise, and
 - q. Any additional information that may be required to properly evaluate the proposed site plan.
4. A traffic generation memo documenting the proposed flow of traffic to and from the site.

- B. Requirements for each food vending vehicle.** In addition to the written application, an applicant shall provide the following information for each food vending vehicle:
- 1. A list of all vehicle license numbers, vehicle descriptions, vehicle identification numbers and vehicle registration for the food vending vehicle(s);
 - 2. Proof of vehicle insurance for the food vending vehicle(s) and business owners operation insurance; and
 - 3. A copy of proof of any additional licenses or permits required by the State or Columbia County for the food vending vehicle(s).
- C. Requirements for food vending vehicle drivers.** Any person who drives a food vending vehicle shall hold a current, valid driver's license.
- D. Health inspection.** Within 30 days of receiving a complete application, the Oregon Health Authority or its designee shall conduct a health inspection of the applicant's food vending vehicle prior to issuing a mobile food vending license.
- E. Issuance of License.** The City shall issue a mobile food vending license to the applicant upon receipt of a complete application and the applicant's food vending vehicle(s) passing an initial inspection. Licenses shall be valid for one year after issuance.

- F. Substitution of licensed food vending vehicles.** Licenses are not transferable, nor shall a license authorize the activities licensed by any person other than the licensee.
- G. Fees.** The City is authorized to establish a reasonable schedule and classifications of fees not to exceed \$200 for a mobile food vending license.
- H. Renewal.** Licenses shall be renewed annually. The City shall send notice to the licensee. The licensee shall submit the renewal annually, prior to the license's expiration date. The renewal shall include input from the Rainier Chief of Police regarding the impacts of the food cart on traffic patterns. Concerns about those traffic patterns shall be considered grounds for mitigation measures and/or a potential non-renewal of a license.
- I. Unlawful conduct.** It is unlawful for any person to intentionally provide false information or to intentionally omit information on an application for a license under this chapter.

SECTION 4. CONDITIONS OF APPROVAL. The City may impose conditions upon the approval of a mobile food vending license to ensure compliance with the requirements of this chapter, and other applicable chapters of its municipal code, and to minimize adverse impacts created by the use on surrounding property and uses. These conditions may include, but are not limited to, the following:

- A. Limiting the hours, days, place and manner of operation;
- B. Requiring site and building design features which minimize environmental impacts such as noise, glare and odor;
- C. Requiring additional building setbacks;
- D. Further limiting the building area and outdoor storage used by the mobile food cart and restricting the location of the use on the site in relationship to adjoining uses;
- E. Designating the size, number, location and design of vehicle access points;
- F. Requiring landscaping, buffering, and/or screening, of the mobile food cart from adjoining uses and establishing standards for the continued maintenance of these improvements;
- G. Requiring storm draining improvements, and surfacing of parking and loading areas;
- H. Limiting or setting standards for the location and intensity of outdoor lighting;
- I. Requiring and designating the size, height and location of fences and other materials used for their construction;
- J. Requiring the protection and preservation of existing trees and other vegetation, watercourses, slopes, wildlife habitat areas and drainage areas;
- K. Limiting the type and number of vehicles or equipment to be parked or stored on the site;
- L. Any other limitations which the City considers to be necessary or desirable to make the use comply with this section; and
- M. Any limitations or conditions imposed by the City's service providers or the Fire Department.

SECTION 5. MINIMUM SETBACKS AND SEPARATION DISTANCES. All food carts on the site shall be located a minimum of:

1. Five feet from any structures or other food cart;
2. Ten feet from any front lot line; and

3. Five feet from any interior side or rear lot line, except if such lot line abuts a street the setback shall be ten feet and if such lot line abuts a residential district, the minimum setback shall be 20 feet.

SECTION 6. MOBILE FOOD VENDING VEHICLE OPERATIONS

- A. **Compliance with state and local law.** Mobile food vendor shall follow any applicable state and local laws, including without limitation all fire codes, zoning codes, occupational tax codes and any other applicable state or local code provisions.
- B. **Location of operations.** A mobile food vendor may operate in the following locations:
 - 1) **Private property.** A mobile food vendor may operate on private property under the following circumstances:
 - (i) The property is in a non-residential zone and the vendor has the permission of the property owner and/or his or her designee.
 - 2) **No interference with pedestrians or vehicles.** A mobile food vendor shall not interfere with or obstruct the passage of pedestrians or vehicles along any street, sidewalk or parkway.
- C. **Operational standards.** When operating, a mobile food vendor shall:
 - 1) Maintain a food vending vehicle in good operating order and visual appearance;
 - 2) Park so that its service window faces the sidewalk;
 - 3) Serve customers through its service window;
 - 4) Provide a waste receptacle for customers which is clearly marked and request its use by customers;
 - 5) Pick up, remove and dispose of all refuse within 25 feet of the vendor's operating area at the conclusion of service;
 - 6) Submit to and pass any required health inspections; and
 - 7) Display its mobile food vendor license and health certificate in a conspicuous location in its operating window for public view.

SECTION 7. FOOD SAFETY, HEALTH INSPECTIONS AND CERTIFICATES

- A. **Food safety certification.** At all times, at least one person working in a food vending vehicle must hold a current food safety certification.

- B. **Health inspections.** For the purpose of protecting public health and safety, the Oregon Health Authority shall ensure that mobile food vendors are inspected on an ongoing, randomized basis pursuant to the frequency set forth in subdivision of this section.

SECTION 8. SANITATION FACILITIES

- A. Food cart pods shall ensure the availability of a restroom with hand washing facilities meeting the provisions of OARR 33-150-0000 for employees and customers. Portable restrooms and portable handwashing facilities are not permitted, unless the portable handwashing facilities provide hot running water meeting the provisions of OAR 333-150-0000. If portable restrooms and portable handwashing facilities are provided, they shall be screened from view with fencing or a solid vegetative screen, or a combination of the two, provided that the portable facilities are not visible from neighboring properties or public right-of-way. The restrooms must either be on-site, within one-quarter of a mile or within five minutes walking distance and be available during the carts' hours of operation. Applicants shall provide the city with documentation that restrooms are available via the owners written permission for the utilization of facilities in an existing building.
- B. Sewage disposal. Subsurface sewage disposal is prohibited.
- C. Vendor parking. For any food cart pod requiring approval, vendor parking shall be provided at the rate of one parking stall per food cart. Vendor parking may be satisfied by the provision of off-site parking agreements, when the off-site parking space used is surplus parking and not required parking for an existing use.
- D. Utilities. To the extent that utilities are desired by the applicant or required by applicable regulations, food carts shall have self-contained utilities.

BY: _____

Jerry Cole, Mayor

ATTEST:

BY: _____

Scott Jorgensen, City Administrator

Chapter 8.40 TREE PLANTING AND MAINTENANCE

Sections:

- 8.40.010 Goal.**
- 8.40.020 Purpose.**
- 8.40.030 Hazardous conditions.**
- 8.40.040 Responsibility of individual property owners.**
- 8.40.050 City requirements and conditions.**
- 8.40.060 Public tree pruning standards.**
- 8.40.070 Street tree planting specifications.**
- 8.40.080 Location standards.**
- 8.40.090 Spacing.**
- 8.40.100 Power-friendly trees.**

8.40.010 Goal.

To establish a set of workable specification standards for activities affecting our urban forest resources. By developing these standards and guidelines for working around public trees, the city will be able to assist responsible parties in maintaining this valuable resource, and to help those parties minimize public safety hazards presented by trees. City staff will work with others to achieve the purposes stated below, while making every effort to require responsible parties to maintain the integrity of our existing trees. (Ord. 1036 § 1, 2007)

8.40.020 Purpose.

To contribute to the livability of the Rainier community, and to enhance the appearance and overall attractiveness of Rainier for continued prosperity and growth.

“Public trees” are defined as those trees which are located within the public right-of-way or upon land under the jurisdiction of the city.

Trees in the city watershed are not covered by this chapter. (Ord. 1036 § 1, 2007)

8.40.030 Hazardous conditions.

A. Purpose. The city of Rainier has limited resources to assist property owners with the maintenance demands of trees planted within and extending into the public rights-of-way and other public properties.

1. When the city receives notice that a tree or part thereof constitutes or creates a hazardous condition to public safety or health, the city will require the adjacent property owner to effect a remedy approved by the city.
2. Hazards to public health or safety may include, but are not limited to, obstruction of traffic control devices and obstruction of illumination from street lights by limbs and foliage.

3. In the event the property owner fails to effect an approved remedy, the city may have the work done and charge the property owner to cover city costs. (Ord. 1036 § 1, 2007)

8.40.040 Responsibility of individual property owners.

A. Maintenance Responsibilities. The maintenance responsibility of all trees and shrubs located within the public right-of-way between the property line and the curb, or where no curb exists, the street or alleyway, shall be the sole responsibility of the adjacent property owner. The maintenance responsibility for all trees and shrubs located on unimproved but platted streets shall also be the responsibility of the adjacent property owner. Property owner responsibility shall extend from the property line to the center of the right-of-way of the platted street. The following requirements apply:

1. Inspect the tree for damaging insects, disease, defect or hazard yearly.
2. In the event of infestation by damaging insects which threaten tree health, or disease or evidence of defect or hazard, treat or repair the tree.
3. Trim or prune the tree so that no branch of the tree is less than 16 feet above any roadway or less than eight feet above any sidewalk or bicycle path along a roadway.
4. Except for trees which have been severely damaged by storms or other causes, or where trees are located under utility wires or other obstructions where other pruning practices are impractical, as determined by the city, trees shall not be topped.
5. If appropriate, as documented by a National Arborist Association (NAA) or International Society of Arboriculture (ISA) certified arborist, remove and dispose of the tree.
6. Except in cases where the planting strip between the roadway and the improved sidewalk is narrower than recommended for the health of a tree listed in Clatskanie Peoples Utility District selection of tree species, "Power Friendly," RMC 8.40.100, or where otherwise excused by the director of public works, replace a tree that been removed or severely damaged with an approved variety and size of tree. (Ord. 1036 § 1, 2007)

8.40.050 City requirements and conditions.

A. The city shall receive the fair market value due the city, if any, of any tree removed or destroyed from within or upon any abutting right-of-way or other public lands owned or maintained by the city.

B. Any property owner desiring city assistance to remove or destroy any tree in or upon any abutting right-of-way or other public lands maintained by the city shall make application to the city. Such application must state the number and kind of tree to be removed or destroyed, the name of the permittee and contractor, if any, the time by which the proposed work is to be done and such other information as may be required by the city.

C. The council may establish, by resolution, inspection and permit fees as part of the tree removal process.

D. Tree maintenance and removal work shall be done in accordance with this city of Rainier tree planting and maintenance policy, the current tree maintenance standards (A-300) established by the NAA, the ISA Tree Pruning Guidelines, and those found in OAR Chapter 43Z, division 2, subdivision R, Ornamental Tree and Shrub Services, by the Oregon Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OR-OSHA). As indicated, copies of the NAA, ISA and OR-OSHA standards are available from the public works department.

E. Stumps from removed trees shall be removed from the right-of-way. Mechanical grinding or other methods as approved by the director of public works may be used to accomplish this task. (Ord. 1036 § 1, 2007)

8.40.060 Public tree pruning standards.

All resource materials for pruning standards referenced in this section are available at the public works department upon request.

A. Purpose. To develop and preserve tree structure and health. These guidelines are presented as working guidelines, recognizing that trees are individually unique in structure, form and growth response, not only between, but also within, species and cultivars. Pruning activities should be chosen and/or modified depending upon the species, the landscape, intended function of the tree, the present age and condition of the tree, and the desired severity of pruning.

B. Standards.

1. All pruning work shall be done in accordance with the current tree maintenance standards (A-300, ISA Pruning Guidelines, and OAR Chapter 437, division 2, subdivision R, Ornamental Tree and Shrub Services).
2. All pruning activities affecting any tree within the right-of-way shall be done in accordance with city of Rainier code and policies.
3. Pruning cuts should be clean and smooth with the bark at the edge of the cut firmly attached to the remaining limb.
4. Large or heavy branches that cannot be thrown clear should be lowered by ropes to prevent injury to the tree or other property.
5. Climbing and pruning practices should not cause undue injury to the tree and therefore the use of spurs or gaffs is not allowed.
6. Spurs may only be used during storm work and to reach an injured climber.
7. Rope injury to thin-barked trees from loading out heavy limbs should be avoided by installing a block and tackle in the tree to carry the load.
8. All pruning work within 10 feet of an overhead energized conductor shall be referred to the appropriate utility and performed by line-clearance certified personnel. (Ord. 1036 § 1, 2007)

8.40.070 Street tree planting specifications.

All resource materials for planting standards and plant material referenced in this section are available at the public works department upon request.

A. Purpose.

1. To help assure that quality planting materials receive an acceptable establishment in their new environment in order to minimize potential maintenance problems and safety related issues in the future.
2. To contribute to the livability of the Rainier community, and to enhance the appearance and overall attractiveness of Rainier for continued prosperity and growth.

3. To improve air quality, reduce noise pollution, reduce surface runoff, and to reduce surface and ground water contamination.
4. To continually strive to identify all suitable locations for tree planting throughout Rainier, as well as suitable trees for those sites, with an emphasis on species diversity.

B. Specifications.

1. Suitability of Planting Sites.

- a. Planting shall be restricted to appropriate areas within the public right-of-way and to city owned and controlled property.
- b. All planting shall meet the standards of RMC 8.15.140, the Rainier zoning ordinances relating to street trees and greenways, and the city of Rainier transportation system plan.

2. Plant Materials.

- a. Plant materials shall conform to the latest version of the American Standard for Nursery Stock (ANSI Z60.1-1990). Plant materials shall be of standard quality or better, true to name and type of the species or cultivar.
- b. Plants shall have normal, well-developed branches and root systems. They shall be healthy, vigorous plants free from decay, defects, sunscald injuries, abrasions of the bark, insect pests, and all forms of infestations or objectionable disfigurements.
- c. Balled and burlapped plants shall have solid balls of size at least meeting the American standard, the balls securely wrapped with burlap or canvas, tightly bound with rope or twine. Wrapping with plastic material or twine is not permitted.
- d. The city has the authority to require trees larger than one-and-one-half-inch stem caliper to be planted, if the planting is a result of a tree replacement due to a removal of an existing tree or destroyed through negligence or accidents.
- e. The city of Rainier public works department shall be notified and have the right to inspect any trees or shrubs before they are planted, or at any time during the term of the contract. The city reserves the right to reject any materials at any time for nonconformance to the specifications of this policy. The contractor will replace rejected materials with specified plants at the contractor's expense.
- f. All street trees shall be of an approved species and variety from the Clatskanie Peoples Utility District selection of tree species, "Power Friendly," RMC 8.40.100, as approved by the city.
- g. Tree material originating within the state shall have the Oregon inspection certificate attached. Nursery stock imported from other states shall be accompanied by a certificate of inspection from the place of origin as required by Oregon law. All certificates shall be given to and reviewed by the city of Rainier public works department prior to tree approval. The contractor shall be responsible for making all arrangements with the Oregon Department of Agriculture for inspection of tree materials shipped from out of state directly to the contractor of the project.

3. Planting Method.

- a. All planting work shall be performed using sound horticultural practices approved by the NAA and/or the ISA.
- b. Plants shall be set plumb. All plants shall be set so that, after settlement, they are at the same level as when growing in the nursery. Plants shall be watered in at the time of planting to eliminate air pockets. Excess soil shall be removed by the contractor.
- c. Balled and burlapped plants may be placed with the wrapping in place if all materials are untreated and biodegradable. When burlap is left around plants, any string, twine or rope shall be removed and the burlap folded down from the top half of the root ball.
- d. No plant shall be dug or approved until all underground utilities have been marked.
- e. Tree spacing must conform to RMC 8.40.090(A), Minimum Street Tree Planting Distances. The spacing will be approved by the city before planting will proceed.
- f. Every planting pit shall be at least 50 percent wider and at least the depth of the soil ball or the full extent of the root system of bare-rooted trees. In the process of digging the hole, "glazing" the sides of the hole will not be accepted.
- g. For all balled-and-burlapped, bare-rooted, container grown plants, the backfill will be of desirable structure, texture, and pH to support vigorous plant growth. Approval of the city of Rainier public works department must be obtained prior to any use of the existing soil as backfill.
- h. A watering berm in unirrigated areas shall be constructed around every tree or shrub.
- i. Planting sites will be mulched with an approved mulch material with four inches of wood chips, fibrous bark, or composted wood debris after planting is completed. The mulch will be extended beyond the drip zone of the tree, and cover an area no less than the width of the planting hole.
- j. All trees must be staked with materials as approved by the city public works department. The tree will be secured to the stakes with an approved rubber, adjustable, chainlock "tree tie" no less than one inch wide and secured at no less than two points along the tree trunk.
- k. Excavated plant pits that will be left open when work is not in progress (nights, holidays, and weekends) or which pose hazards at any time to pedestrians or vehicles shall be adequately barricaded with qualified warning devices as per Oregon Department of Transportation and Oregon OSHA Standards.
- l. Trees will be protected at all times during handling, shipping, storage, and planting. Trees shall be protected from windburn during transit, extreme weather conditions, and drying of roots or root balls. Any trees showing substantial damage, as determined by the city public works department, will be rejected and replaced by the contractor at the contractor's own expense.
- m. If required, root barriers approved by the city public works department will be installed prior to planting. (Ord. 1036 § 1, 2007)

8.40.080 Location standards.

- A. All resource materials for location standards and definitions referenced in this chapter are available at the public works department upon request.
- B. Trees Planted in the Streetside Right-of-Way.

1. On public streets without sidewalks or on major thoroughfares with no or one sidewalk, trees will be located to accommodate future sidewalk placement.
2. Trees will be located in the street right-of-way taking into account current and future utility line corridors. (Ord. 1036 § 1, 2007)

8.40.090 Spacing.

A. Minimum Street Tree Planting Distances. Minimum distances from streams, intersections, alleys, and driveways shall conform to RMC 8.15.140, the Rainier zoning ordinances relating to street trees and greenways, and the city of Rainier transportation system plan for the city of Rainier. Exceptions for allowing trees to be placed within the sight clearance areas may be granted by permission of the city.

B. Definitions.

1. "Shade trees" are those trees that will grow to average over 15 feet in height.
2. "Ornamental trees" are those trees that will grow to average height of less than 15 feet.

C. Definitions for Shade Trees.

1. "Spreading crown" means trees with a mature crown elevation of 30 feet or more.
2. "Global" or "pyramidal" means trees with a mature crown elevation of 20 to 30 feet.
3. "Fastigate" or "columnar" means trees with a mature crown elevation of 10 to 20 feet.

D. Minimum spacing for tree plantings are as follows:

Spreading crown	30' apart
Global, pyramidal	25' apart
Fastigate, columnar	20' apart

E. Minimum distance between the trunk of a tree from walks, curbs and utilities:

Sidewalk	1.5'
Access or courtesy walk	5'
Face of curb	1.5'
Manholes and catchbasins	10'
Fire hydrants	10'
Water meters and other utility boxes	5'

F. Minimum distances from buried utility lines shall be determined on an individual, case-by-case basis.

G. Minimum Distances from Structures.

Shade trees	10'
Ornamental	6'
Shrubs	3'

H. Minimum Distance from Streetlights.

Shade trees:	Spreading crown	20'
	Global, pyramidal	16'
	Fastigate, columnar	10'
Ornamental trees:	All	10'

I. Above-Ground Structures. Any tree planted 10 feet or closer to an above-ground structure shall have an impenetrable root barrier installed near the above-ground structure. The root barrier shall run the length of the planting area or the above-ground structure, whichever is less, and reach a depth of 18 inches.

J. Overhead Utility Lines. No tree with the potential of reaching a mature height of more than 25 feet shall be planted within 10 feet of the right-of-way under "primary" overhead wires (as defined in ANSI A300).

K. Vehicular Area. Provisions shall be made to prevent parts of any vehicle from touching trees or plants in or adjacent to any vehicular area or parking lot which abuts the right-of-way; in addition, provisions shall be made to protect trees and plants from noxious fumes or chemicals by providing sufficient distance between the vehicle and the plants by the use of wheel stops. (Ord. 1036 § 2, 2007)

8.40.100 Power-friendly trees.

Here are a few power-friendly trees. Consult with your local nursery or utility for species and varieties appropriate to your particular landscaping and climate.

Amur Maple

Vine Maple

Japanese Snowbell

Goldenrain

Golden Desert Ash

Mt. Fuji Cherry

Japanese Tree Lilac

Flowering Plum

Serviceberry

(Ord. 1036 § 3, 2007)

Mobile Version

LIABILITY OF ELECTRIC UTILITY FOR PRUNING AND REMOVING VEGETATION

758.280 Definitions for ORS 758.280 to 758.286. For the purposes of ORS 758.280 to 758.286:

(1) “Electric facilities” means lines, conduits, ducts, poles, wires, pipes, conductors, cables, crossarms, receivers, transmitters, transformers, instruments, machines, appliances and all other devices and apparatuses used, operated, owned or controlled by an electric utility for the purposes of manufacturing, transforming, transmitting, distributing, selling or furnishing electricity.

(2) “Electric utility” has the meaning given that term in ORS 758.505.

(3) “Vegetation” means trees, shrubs, vines and all other plants. [2001 c.420 §1]

Note: 758.280 to 758.286 were enacted into law by the Legislative Assembly but were not added to or made a part of ORS chapter 758 or any series therein by legislative action. See Preface to Oregon Revised Statutes for further explanation.

758.282 Immunity of electric utility for pruning or removing vegetation in certain cases. (1) An electric utility is immune from any civil liability for pruning or removing vegetation that is growing on property on which electric facilities are located, or growing on property that is adjacent to property on which electric facilities are located, if the pruning or removal is consistent with policies of the Public Utility Commission relating to the pruning or removal of vegetation, or is consistent with a local ordinance or resolution applicable to the property that relates to the pruning or removal of vegetation, and:

(a) The vegetation has come in contact with or caused damage to electric facilities; or

(b) Pruning or removing the vegetation is necessary to protect life or property or to restore electric service.

(2) ORS 105.810 and 105.815 do not apply to any claim against an electric utility based on the pruning or removal of vegetation growing on property on which electric facilities are located, or growing on property that is adjacent to property on which electric facilities are located. [2001 c.420 §2]

Note: See note under 758.280.

758.284 Immunity of electric utility for pruning or removing vegetation in other cases; notice to property owner. (1) An electric utility is immune from any civil liability for pruning or removing vegetation that is growing on property on which electric facilities are located, or growing on property that is adjacent to property on which electric facilities are located, if the pruning or removal is consistent with policies of the Public Utility Commission relating to the pruning or removal of vegetation, or is consistent with a local ordinance or resolution applicable to the property that relates to the pruning or removal of vegetation, and any of the following apply:

(a) The vegetation to be pruned or removed is hanging over electric facilities or growing in such close proximity to overhead electric facilities that the vegetation constitutes an electrical hazard under any electrical safety code adopted by the Public Utility Commission or constitutes a danger under state or federal health and safety codes to a person working on the facilities or with access to the facilities.

(b) The vegetation to be removed is diseased, dead or dying or is close enough to electric facilities that pruning or removal of the vegetation is necessary to avoid contact between the vegetation and electric facilities. A determination under this paragraph must be made by a qualified forester or arborist if a local ordinance or resolution requires that such determinations be made by a qualified forester or arborist.

(c) The vegetation is of such size, condition and proximity to electric facilities that the vegetation can reasonably be expected to cause damage to electric facilities in the future. A determination under this paragraph must be made by a qualified forester or arborist if a local ordinance or resolution requires that such determinations be made by a qualified forester or arborist.

(2) The limitation on liability provided by this section does not apply unless the electric utility has provided notice to owners of the property where the vegetation is located. Notice may be provided by posting a flyer in a conspicuous location on the property where the vegetation is located. The flyer must:

- (a) Indicate that the electric utility intends to prune or remove vegetation on the property;
- (b) Include a brief statement of the nature of the work to be performed and the reason the work is needed;
- (c) Include an estimate of the time period during which the work will occur; and
- (d) Provide information on how the electric utility can be contacted.

(3) The limitation on liability provided by this section does not apply unless the pruning or removal complies with rules adopted by the Public Utility Commission relating to pruning or removal. In adopting rules, the commission shall give consideration to the American National Standard for Tree Care Operations adopted by the American National Standards Institute. [2001 c.420 §3]

Note: See note under 758.280.

758.286 Immunity not applicable to liability for cost of abating fires. The immunities provided by ORS 758.280 to 758.284 do not affect any liability that an electric utility may have for the costs of abating fires under ORS 477.064 to 477.120. [2001 c.420 §4]

Note: See note under 758.280.

2019 Tree City USA Communities in Oregon

[DOWNLOAD A STATE SUMMARY](#) 

Updated June, 2020. Next update, June 2021.

CITY	YEARS	POPULATION
Albany	26	53,145
Ashland	35	21,117
Aumsville	3	3,975
Baker City	35	9,783
Bandon	11	3,112
Banks	14	1,860
Beaverton	26	98,962
Bend	17	91,385
Brownsville	14	1,790
Cannon Beach	12	1,730
Central Point	7	18,234
Coburg	22	1,350



Corvallis	19	57,961
Cottage Grove	26	10,005
Creswell	10	5,455
Dallas	12	15,345
Eagle Point	28	9,260
Echo	31	710
Eugene	41	167,255
Falls City	4	950
Florence	1	8,795
Forest Grove	30	24,125
Gervais	13	2,585
Grants Pass	32	37,135
Gresham	12	111,810
Happy Valley	16	21,700
Hillsboro	2	101,920
Hood River	8	7,806
Independence	8	9,730
Klamath Falls	17	21,356
La Grande	30	13,270



Lebanon	18	17,135
Lincoln City	12	8,500
Madras	27	6,380
McMinnville	23	33,810
Medford	24	82,347
Milwaukie	4	20,929
Monmouth	18	9,920
Newport	8	10,825
OREGON CITY	8	35,570
Pendleton	3	16,985
Philomath	26	4,734
Portland	43	647,805
Redmond	15	30,914
Rogue River	37	2,245
Roseburg	4	24,820
Salem	44	167,220
Sandy	15	11,075
Seaside	22	6,470
Sherwood	15	19,505



Sisters	13	2,767
Stanfield	6	2,248
Sunriver	40	4,175
Sweet Home	33	9,612
Talent	20	6,416
Tigard	19	53,148
Tillamook	33	4,950
Toledo	26	3,490
Troutdale	20	16,656
Tualatin	33	27,478
Umatilla	2	7,320
Veneta	11	4,800
West Linn	27	26,756
Wilsonville	22	25,250



Tree City USA®

Take Pride in a Greener Community

You have seen the signs along the road and perhaps a Tree City USA flag flying at city hall in other communities. Towns and cities that have received their Tree City USA recognition take pride in this distinction. And the people who live there enjoy the valuable benefits of having a greener, healthier community.

Tree City USA is a national recognition program that began in 1976 and is sponsored by the Arbor Day Foundation in partnership with the U.S. Forest Service and National Association of State Foresters. By meeting four fundamental standards, an incorporated municipality of any size can qualify.

Applying for the Tree City USA award is easy and the recognition is outstanding. There are now thousands of communities that proudly receive roadside signs, fly the flag of Tree City USA and – knowing the value of participation – renew their application every year.

Whether you are a business leader, a community official, or simply a citizen with an interest in trees, you are invited to visit arborday.org/TreeCityUSA for more information and to apply for recognition on behalf of your community.

“Tree City USA is a great way to get the community involved in green space. A community that feels involved will take better care of their environment.”

— Alison Litchy, Fort Smith, AR

Why Your City Should be a Tree City USA Community

“With emphasis today on the environment, residents need to know the importance of trees and the importance of the care of those trees.”

— Bernard Whiteley, Velda Village Hills, MO

WHY YOUR CITY SHOULD BE A TREE CITY USA COMMUNITY

The Tree City USA program provides direction, assistance, and national recognition to your community. It's the framework for a healthy, sustainable urban forestry program in your town. By becoming a Tree City USA your community is ensuring that its trees will benefit your community in many ways:

Reduce costs for energy, stormwater management, and erosion control. Trees yield three to five times their cost in overall benefits to the city.

Cut energy consumption by up to 25 percent. Studies indicate that as few as three additional trees planted around each building in the United States could save \$2 billion annually in energy costs.

Boost property values across your community. Properly placed trees can increase property values from 7 – 20 percent. Buildings in wooded areas rent more quickly and tenants stay longer.

Build stronger ties to your neighborhood and community. Trees and green spaces directly correlate to greater connections to neighbors.

Honor your community and demonstrate your commitment to a healthier environment through Arbor Day celebrations and Tree City USA recognition.

Use the framework for action provided by the four core standards as a way to begin caring for city trees. Some communities regularly enhance urban forest management through improved ordinances, innovative programs, and increased emphasis on planting and care.

Educate people living in your city about the value of trees and the importance of sustainable tree management. Annual participation as a Tree City USA community provides this opportunity and makes it easier to engage individuals and organizations through the city. Tree City USA status can also create a strong working relationship with your state forestry agency and other groups.

Increase community pride. Participation in the Tree

City USA program helps residents feel good about the place they live and work. Annual recognition shows visitors and prospective residents that trees, conservation, and the environment are important to your community.

Gain publicity with recognition materials. Tree boards, parks departments, public works officials, and volunteers are recognized for the valuable work they provide to the community. Many communities share their Tree City USA recognition across city departments and with elected officials, students, and business leaders.



Why Community Trees are Important

Trees along our streets and in parks have been treasured since the earliest days of settlement. Unmatched beauty, and cooling shade are still important, but there is more.

ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES

A modest investment in community trees has a big pay-back. Studies show that for every dollar invested, there is often a four or five dollar annual return in environmental services, not to mention that green infrastructure is the only part of a city's infrastructure that actually appreciates in value over time.

- Trees clean the air, absorbing pollutants that trigger asthma attacks and other health problems.
- Trees absorb carbon dioxide and provide life-giving oxygen.
- Shade from trees cools the urban landscape.
- Water vapor given off through transpiration adds to the cooling influence of trees.
- Stormwater runoff can be reduced by tree canopies by as much as 65 percent, reducing flooding and the need for expensive facilities.



TREE CITY USA®

The Four Standards

These are the simple but important requirements for becoming eligible to be named a Tree City USA.

1. A tree board or department
2. A tree care ordinance
3. A community forestry program with an annual budget of at least \$2 per capita
4. An Arbor Day proclamation and observance

FINANCIAL BENEFITS

Much depends on the nature of the neighborhood, but real estate professionals report that houses with adjoining healthy trees and pleasant landscaping can contribute as much as 20 percent to the property value.

- In some cases, a single tree has raised the value by 9 percent compared to similar houses without such tree.
- Scientists with the U.S. Forest Service report that a tree planted today on the west side of a house can reduce energy bills by 3 percent in only five years and by 12 percent annually in 15 years.

PUBLIC HEALTH BENEFITS

Research has consistently shown the positive impact trees have on people, including worker satisfaction, students' ability to concentrate, faster healing time for hospital patients, and lower blood pressure among senior citizens. Their presence has even been found to reduce crime by providing inviting places that promote positive social interaction.

In summary, the growing volume of research says that trees:

- facilitate mental restoration.
- reduce depression, anger, anxiety, mental fatigue, and stress.
- focus attention and improve concentration.
- encourage healthful, outdoor activity for the young and old.



Fundamental Components of Tree City USA

The benefits enjoyed by communities that receive Tree City USA recognition usually include a more organized and effective approach to the care of their trees. In fact, that is exactly what the four standards are intended to encourage – a systematic, continuous tree care program.

STANDARD 1: A TREE BOARD OR DEPARTMENT

Larger cities usually have a department or other government official that is responsible for tree care. These communities meet Standard 1. The benefit of Tree City USA recognition will enhance recognition of the department's efforts and perhaps even help at budget time.

The formation of a tree board often stems from a group of citizens. In some cases a mayor or city officials have started the process. Either way, the benefits are immense. Involving residents and business owners creates wide awareness of what trees do for the community and provides broad support for better tree care.

STANDARD 2: A TREE CARE ORDINANCE

City ordinances reflect the values of a community. That is, they speak about what its residents believe are worth protecting to create or maintain their quality of life and an en-

vironment that is both safe and pleasant. Trees are certainly worthy of this formal attention for the common good.

A public tree care ordinance encourages beautification, air cooling and purification, noise abatement, property value enhancement, and all the other attributes of trees in cities of all sizes. It also enables city government to prevent and control destructive insects and diseases, avoid unnecessary costs and liability from hazardous trees and tree-related accidents, and protect residents from unscrupulous or careless operators.

Length of the ordinance does not matter. It should be kept simple, clear, and tailored to the needs of your community. A tree ordinance is an important tool for proper tree care — delegating authority to a board or department and establishing protection and regulation for public trees. There are plenty of models and help available to create a tree ordinance. For more information, see Tree City USA Bulletin No. 9 or visit arborday.org/bulletins and navigate to the resources for Bulletin No. 9. But above all, remember that the ordinance is modified to serve in your situation.

STANDARD 3: A COMMUNITY FORESTRY PROGRAM WITH AN ANNUAL BUDGET OF AT LEAST \$2 PER CAPITA

As pointed out earlier, most communities probably already spend at least \$2 per capita. Also, community trees — when cared for — can actually save money. A managed program can ensure benefits that surely outweigh costs. It does require dollars to plant and keep trees in healthy condition, but this should not be a barrier to becoming a Tree City USA. Even the smallest communities have found ways to raise needed funds:

- City budget (always a high priority).
- Local donations, often through adopt-a-tree or memorial tree programs.
- Including trees as part of public works or downtown revitalization projects that receive state or federal money.
- Assistance from the utility company.
- A donor-established trust with principal used for trees.
- Federal grants, often passed through to communities from the state forester's office.
- State funds from special license plates or tax return checkoffs.
- Tree donations from local nurseries or retail outlets, especially in late autumn.

Tree City USA Bulletin 34 and its supplemental resource library at arborday.org/bulletins provide additional ideas.

The importance of this tree-planting holiday provides an excellent opportunity to educate about trees and tree care.

STANDARD 4: AN ARBOR DAY PROCLAMATION AND OBSERVANCE

Arbor Day began in 1872 as the idea of founder J. Sterling Morton, a Nebraska farmer and newspaper editor. Since then it has spread to every state in the nation and many countries overseas. Most importantly, it has been the initial inspiration for generations of children who grew into adults who love trees and care about the environment.

The importance of this tree-planting holiday provides an excellent opportunity to educate about trees and tree care. It also creates pride within the community and can help garner public support for the city's entire urban forestry program.

Part of the fun of Arbor Day is creating something that will be enjoyed by the whole community. Here are some of the ways Tree City USA communities are making the celebration memorable. More help is available at arborday.org/celebrate.

- Involving school children, Scouts, church groups.
- Combining with an art and craft festival.
- Sponsoring contests for young people and adults (art, crafts, essays, best landscaping, etc.).
- A "Tree of the Year" contest.
- Presentations by celebrities.
- Honoring individuals who have made important contributions.
- Theatrical or musical performances.
- Food from nature-cooking demonstrations.
- And, of course – planting trees!



Myths and Truths about Tree City USA

Many communities fail to take advantage of Tree City USA recognition because of misconceptions about the program. Here are the perceived obstacles and the facts.

MYTH: We don't know much about trees ...

TRUTH: If this is true, it is a very good reason to pursue Tree City USA status! There is plenty of assistance available and a network of people who are passionate about the role trees play in every community. Help will be provided in forming a tree board if that's what you need. Materials are available to help you plan an Arbor Day celebration. Even a suggested proclamation for the mayor to read will be sent. You can be sure that you will learn and grow, and your entire community will benefit from it.

MYTH: We can't afford it ...

TRUTH: We think you can. First of all, there are no application or membership fees. Even the award materials are complimentary. Other services are part of what your state forestry department contributes. As for the \$2 per capita required, you are probably already spending this much on tree care. For example, in even the smallest of cities, if an employee removes a tree that fell during a storm or that appears dangerous, labor and equipment costs count. And if volunteers help plant trees, their time and expenses can count, too. Of course, the goal of this standard is to have community tree care be part of the local budget, but even without that, most communities already meet this standard.

MYTH: People in our community view trees as a frill or nice to have, but that's about all ...

TRUTH: This is probably because they don't understand that trees not only lend beauty to our communities, they provide benefits such as cleaner air and water, lower energy costs, stormwater retention, and a host of others. There are also numerous proven public health and economic benefits. Living in a Tree City USA community usually instills a sense of pride among the residents and opens opportunities for education about the benefits of a healthy tree canopy. With a little understanding, trees become viewed not as a frill but as a necessary and profitable part of the city infrastructure.

MYTH: Another ordinance just means more restrictions and more bureaucracy ...

TRUTH: A tree ordinance is needed for systematic and continuous care of your community's public trees – and public safety. However, there is no single ordinance that fits every community. Some might be lengthy and detailed, but others are very short. The ordinance should fit the needs of the community.



MYTH: Our community is too small ...

TRUTH: If there was genius in the founding of the Tree City USA program, it was in the requirement that qualifying expenditures are on a per capita basis. This provides a level playing field for communities ranging from New York City with its population of more than 8 million people to Sibley, North Dakota, and its 28 residents.

“The real advantage to the designation is it speaks to the rest of the world about who you are as a community and what you value in your world.”

— Steve Ayers, Camp Verde, AZ

MYTH: We lack leadership ...

TRUTH: This thought may be the number one obstacle to achieving Tree City USA recognition. On the other hand, it takes only one motivated individual to get the ball rolling. Maybe that person is you. Whoever starts the Tree City USA process usually finds that there actually is support from others. It may be the mayor, a council member, a park staffer, or someone else affiliated with the city. Or, it may be another resident or two who share the desire to move forward. In searching for supportive individuals, you might start with other organizations such as a Garden Club, civic group, business associations, or just a group of friends. Kindred spirits are out there.

MYTH: No one here wants the responsibility of taking care of trees ...

TRUTH: Ouch! This attitude can hurt in more ways than one. Not only can citizens be injured, it is also a plaintiff lawyer's dream. Cities have the responsibility for public safety. Tree City USA standards help communities be more aware not only of the duty of care owed to citizens and visitors, but how to make conditions safer down the road.

MYTH: There is no Arbor Day celebration (or proclamation) in our community ...

TRUTH: Arbor Day is one of the nation's oldest celebrations. The first one was in 1872 and the idea spread quickly to all states in the nation. If your community doesn't have an Arbor Day celebration of some kind, it's time to start. Countless numbers of adults can trace their earliest memories of stewardship to an Arbor Day celebration at school. Ways to celebrate can be as simple as a brief ceremony and planting a new tree near city hall, the library, a home for the elderly, or some other public or private building. For ideas and a copy of a proclamation that can be read at the ceremony, see the Celebrate Arbor Day section online at arborday.org/celebrate.

HOW TO EARN TREE CITY USA RECOGNITION

1. Get Your Community Interested — Find Allies and Partners
2. Contact Your State Urban and Community Forestry Coordinator
3. Work Together to Fulfill the Four Tree City USA Standards
4. Celebrate Arbor Day!
5. Submit your Application

Communities that receive Tree City USA recognition receive support that helps make the celebration easy to plan and conduct. Here is some of what you will receive in your first year:

- Two road signs.
- A 4' x 6' Tree City USA flag.
- Beautiful wall plaque.



With a bit of organizing, virtually any community — large or small — can qualify for Tree City USA recognition. The end result will be safer community trees, better informed citizens, and a higher quality of life for residents and businesses.

It's Time to Get Recognized

“Becoming a Tree City USA is a way to make your community stand out. It shows you're dedicated to the management of your urban forest and strive to provide a beautiful landscape to the residents you serve.”

— Mike Fraider, Alsip, IL



TREE CITY USA®: *Your Community Is Ready*

As the first step in helping your town or city become a Tree City USA community, an important person for you to contact is the urban and community forestry coordinator in your state forester's office.

Visit arborday.org/coordinators for your contact's information and a directory list of all states.

Your state coordinator is the resource for beginning your Tree City USA application. He or she will have answers to your questions and will be more than happy to help your community become a Tree City USA.



How to Apply

Simplicity is one of the principles of the Tree City USA application and annual recertification process. Experience has shown that getting started as a Tree City USA often results from a single individual or a small group taking the lead. Here is all you have to do:

A Talk with the person in your community currently responsible for trees (city forester, park superintendent, public works director, etc.). Also discuss with your mayor, city manager, city clerk, a key council person, or whomever else in your city government should be informed and whose support you will need.

B Go to portal.arborday.org. The Tree City USA application can easily be completed online.

C The application is normally completed by the city forester or other person responsible for trees, or the tree board chair. Once your application is submitted, it's reviewed at a state level and then it will be reviewed by the Arbor Day Foundation at a national level. To learn more about applying and your state's deadlines visit arborday.org/treecityusa.

City Administrator Report
January 4, 2021 Rainier Council Meeting

Mayor Cole and Members of the Council,

On December 9, I composed and sent a letter to the Waldport City Council on the city's behalf expressing our deepest sympathies for the sudden and tragic passing of its longtime member Mark Campbell.

I participated in the interview panel for the Columbia River Fire and Rescue chief position on December 11. Three days later, I sent a letter to Rep. Jeff Barker congratulating him on his retirement from the legislature and thanking him for his past efforts to sponsor legislation naming the Ralph Painter Memorial Highway.

The December 16 Planning Commission meeting went very well. Its next meeting is scheduled for January 13.

On December 18, I participated in a statewide conference call organized by the League of Oregon Cities (LOC) to discuss various funding resources that are available to cities. I followed that up with a call to an LOC staffer who specializes in water policy to try and find ways to pay for the Fox Creek feasibility study.

I met with a group of property owners on December 22 who are interested in developing an RV park in town.

Our new IT firm has been in the process of onboarding and resolving issues as they come up.

I've spent much time this last month dealing with personnel issues. I also spent some time arranging the council chambers into their current configuration and obtaining what was needed to set up the PA system.

Lastly, I drafted the food cart ordinance for your consideration at tonight's meeting, based on input from the Planning Commission, our attorney and some sample ordinances from other jurisdictions.

Sincerely,

W. Scott Jorgensen, Executive MPA
City Administrator