

# Whose Tree Is It?

## City-owned public trees

**The City of Robbinsdale** owns and maintains those trees growing around municipal offices and facilities, along street rights-of-way, in parks, city-owned woodlands and in a few other random areas. City Code specifies Forestry staff to actively manage public trees which include regular pruning, removals, treatments (where applicable), hazard inspections and new tree planting. The street right-of-way typically extends inward about 12-15 feet behind the curb regardless of whether a sidewalk is present. However, some exceptions exist depending on the platted width of the roadway. If you have questions about tree ownership along the right-of-way or if you would like some tree work to be performed in the questioned area, please contact the City Forester/Natural Resources Specialist.

Residents are encouraged to report broken branches, declining or diseased trees, structural pruning needs, damage and/or any other problems found on public trees to Forestry staff or the Engineering Department. If clearance pruning of a specific public tree over a yard or sidewalk is needed please contact the City Forester/Natural Resources Specialist.

If desired, residents are allowed to plant a tree in the public right of way. This action requires that a permit application for planting a tree on City-owned boulevards be completed and submitted to the Engineering Department for review. A copy of this permit can be accessed from the forestry website.

## Private Trees

**Your trees**, i.e. those growing or originating on your property, are your responsibility. A tree or shrub can be jointly-owned if it is growing on the property line, with equal portions of the trunk on both sides of the imaginary property boundary. In this case such a plant would be co-owned, meaning that responsibility for maintenance or removal of the plant is ideally shared. It is up to the homeowner (i.e. not the city) to know where their property lines are for such determinations.

**Your neighbors' trees** may overhang or encroach onto your property. If such a situation arises and becomes a problem, the first step is to discuss the situation with your neighbor. Together, attempt to reach an agreement that solves the problem in a manner acceptable to both parties. From a legal standpoint, pruning cuts on neighboring trees can only be made as far as the edge of your property line, which would be a worst-case scenario. It is always best to ask permission of the owner of the tree prior to performing any such work or pruning near the property line. This will foster better relations and proper pruning cuts. Branch stub cuts are unsightly and generally detrimental to tree health.

You may perform tree care operations yourself or choose a private tree care company that is licensed by the City of Robbinsdale (see [City Licensed Tree Contractors](#)).

## Other Public Trees

**Both Hennepin County** and the **Minnesota Department of Transportation** also own land in Robbinsdale on which trees grow. This includes County Road 8 (West Broadway north of 42<sup>nd</sup> Ave), 9 (42<sup>nd</sup> Ave/Lake Drive), 81 (Bottineau Blvd) and Highway 100. Please report any concerns regarding trees along these corridors to Forestry Staff or the Engineering Department and they will be forwarded onto the appropriate authority.