

TREE CARE: PRUNING EASTMORELAND TREE COMMITTEE



Proper pruning of your street trees ensures they have greater health, vigor, and beauty and are better able to provide a multitude of benefits to you and the community for the long-term.

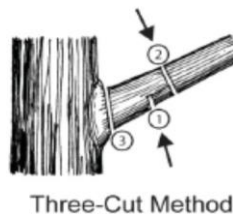
Pruning should begin when the tree is young so that pruning wounds can heal quickly. The city does not require a city-issued pruning permit for removing small branches **up to ½" diameter**. However, branches **over ½" diameter** require a city-issued pruning permit and we recommend hiring certified arborists for large branch and large tree pruning.



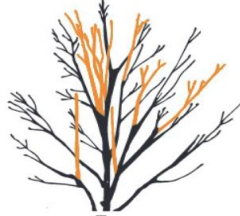
PRUNING GUIDELINES

3-5 years after planting, you can begin pruning.

- To avoid suckering and promote faster healing, always prune a branch where it joins a larger branch or the main stem (see photo above).
- To prevent bark from tearing when cutting, branches **over ½" diameter** often need a three-cut method (diagram below) where you partially undercut the branch about a foot from the trunk (cut 1), then make cuts 2 and 3.



- Remove root suckers.
- Remove dead, rubbing, and crossing branches.



- If two (or more) upward-growing branches are co-dominant leaders, remove all but one.



- An important rule of thumb is to **not remove more than ¼ of the live crown** when pruning.

Check out the resources below for more complete guidelines, a glossary, diagrams, and a pruning video:

- Intro to Pruning (includes a video) <https://www.portland.gov/trees/documents/introduction-tree-pruning-document/download>
- Tree Pruning Brochure <https://www.portland.gov/trees/documents/tree-pruning-brochure/download>
- Tree Pruning Standards <https://www.portland.gov/trees/documents/street-tree-pruning-standards/download>

6 + years after planting, contact the Tree Committee (eastmoreland.tree@gmail.com) or a certified arborist to inspect your tree to determine what pruning is necessary. Certified arborists use the ANSI standards¹ for pruning. The same general guidelines are followed for pruning older trees as for younger trees.



¹American National Standards Institute (ANSI) A300 Pruning Standards and International Society of Arboriculture Best Management Practices: Tree Pruning.