



CITY OF ATLANTA

M. KASIM REED
MAYOR

ARBORIST DIVISION

DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING,
AND COMMUNITY
DEVELOPMENT

JAMES E. SHELBY
COMMISSIONER

Standard of Practice

Nuisance Trees

A Nuisance Tree is any dead or diseased tree or part of a tree that poses an immediate hazard to the city's right-of-way or city property (Tree Protection Ordinance Sec. 158-110).

Nuisance tree due to the danger to an adjoining property. City of Atlanta Housing Code Sec. 19(f) requires that a Nuisance be remediated. The Tree Ordinance requires removal within a period of ten (10) days from the date of receipt of notification.

Procedures for nuisance trees abatement:

- The city arborist shall record in his or her field book and KIVA the street address, species, diameter and location of the tree. If feasible, an attempt to determine the owner of the property shall be made immediately. If there is no response at the door a business card shall be left asking the homeowner to contact the arborist.
- The above information will be emailed to the City Forester (Office of Parks) for a determination as to whether or not this tree can be cited as a nuisance tree.
- If the Office of Parks declares the tree is a Nuisance tree, a Nuisance Tree Notice and Tree Removal Permit (or Correction Notice) shall be generated and mailed, faxed or hand delivered to the owner of the property. If specific ownership has not been determined, the notice and permit shall be sent to "Owner" at the subject address via certified mail, return receipt requested.

The Nuisance Tree Notice allows the owner 10 days to eliminate the nuisance. If the nuisance remains after 10 days the arborist shall forward all relevant information to the Office of Parks for them to make a decision as to cite the owner to appear in Municipal Court on a charge of “failure to comply” with Sec. 158-110 of the Tree Protection Ordinance or to mitigate the nuisance and invoice the Bureau of Building.

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