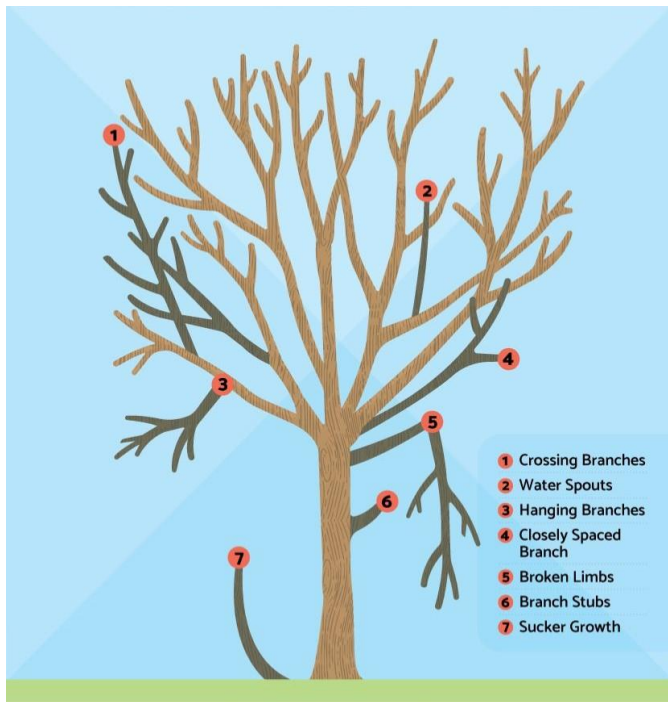


Why Prune Trees?

Proper pruning of landscape trees improves their structural strength, maintains their health, enhances beauty, and increases their value.



Pruning becomes advisable under the following circumstances:

- Trees have crossing branches, weak branch unions, or other defects.
- Branches are dead, dying, decayed, or potentially hazardous.
- Lower branches interfere with people or vehicles, or block visibility of signs.
- Branches are growing into buildings or utility wires.
- Limbs have been broken by storms.
- Trees have grown too large and might injure people or damage property.

Pruning objectives:

Improving structure to develop a strong and safe tree architecture by influencing the orientation, spacing, growth rate, strength of attachment, and ultimate size of branches.

Pruning to reduce the likelihood of branch or whole-tree failure. Removing dead, diseased, decayed, cracked, broken, or excessively long, or large-diameter branches.

Removing branches to minimize interference with people, traffic, lines of sight, buildings, lighting, other plants, or powerlines.

Removing infested, infected, damaged, or rubbing branches.

Improve airflow and light by reducing density. Remove crowded, weakly attached, or low-vigor branches and sprouts at the crown periphery (formerly called "thinning").

Restoration pruning improves the structure, form, or appearance of trees after topping, severe heading, vandalism, lion-tailing, or storm damage.

Removing selected older branches to make room for younger branches (Rejuvenation Cut)

Size management makes the tree smaller while maintaining its natural shape. (Reduction Cut)

Other objectives such as flower or fruit production, improving a view or aesthetics, and managing wildlife habitat.