TREE TIPS FROM THE TREE TOPS

Pruning in a Municipal Setting

Why should I prune?

- Tree is causing site line issues.
- Branches are rubbing against cars/hanging too far into the road.
- Needs to be shaped for aesthetic reasons.

When should I prune?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Softwood trees (Ex. pines)</th>
<th>Winter</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>All other trees</td>
<td>When leaves come out – October (when tree goes dormant)</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

How should I prune?

A. Look at where the branch attaches to the trunk.

B. Cut back to the node, outside the collar, using three cuts:
   1. First cut – undercut away from where you want to prune.
   2. Second cut – cut down and away from the tree to prevent tearing.
   3. Third cut – make the final cut outside of the tree collar (outside the collar is where the tree would naturally prune itself).

Always keep in Mind

1. Limit the amount you remove - take off no more than you need to.
2. There are three things you should remove first before taking live branches:
   a. Broken branches
   b. Deadwood
   c. Rubbing branches
3. Snow load will cause lower branches to hang down low. *(Lower than they hang in the warmer months when you will be pruning)*