



Resources

Minnesota Law -
Tree Ownership
and Responsibility



conservancy.umn.edu/tree-law

City of Rochester
Tree Storm
Response FAQ



rochestermn.gov/forestryfaq

STORM TREE RESPONSE

WHAT HOMEOWNERS NEED TO KNOW

Under Minnesota law, private property owners are responsible for managing trees on their property and ensuring that vegetation does not obstruct public roads or sidewalks. The City is responsible for maintaining clear public rights-of-way.

When the City Responds

- Public tree blocking a street.
- Public tree blocking a sidewalk or trail (non-emergency, cleared during work hours).
- Tree part touching a power line (RPU leads response).
- Public tree in a park blocking emergency access or a reserved space.
- Private tree that has fallen into the public right-of-way may be cleared by the City. Private tree debris may remain and the owner is required to remove the debris.

When Homeowner is Responsible

- Property owners are responsible for all tree debris on their private property, whether from a public or private tree.
- Tree debris that does not block streets or sidewalks is the property owner's responsibility.
- Private tree that has fallen into the public right-of-way may be cleared by the City. Private tree debris may remain and the owner is required to remove the debris.

What to do Next

1. Contact your insurance company.
2. Hire a licensed tree care professional.
3. Learn more at the links to the left.
4. Call 311 with questions.

