

# Reading, PA Code of Ordinances

## Chapter 555

### TREES

*\*Please see the entire Chapter 555 for all information regarding the regulation of planting, and maintenance of trees in the City of Reading.*

*Below are some pertinent excerpts that may be helpful, but is by no means complete.*

#### **§ 555-103. Definitions.**

SHADE TREE - Any tree located in any public area, herein defined, or which at maturity would protrude into a public area, or to any tree located on property of special interest to the City by right of [Chapter 600](#), Zoning, or any other ordinance.

PERMIT, SHADE TREE - A certificate issued by Council or its designee for the planting, transplanting, cutting, trimming or removal of any tree governed by the provisions of this Part, or for the fastening of any sign, wire, rope or other materials to, around or through any tree, or for the deposition, placement, storage or maintenance of any stone, brick, sand, concrete or other material which might impede the free passage of water, air or fertilizer to the roots of any tree governed by the provisions of this Part. In this Part, when the word "permit" appears alone, the word shall be construed to mean "shade tree permit."

#### **§ 555-104. Custody and control of shade trees.**

The Department shall have the rights to plating, removal, and protection of the trees on and along the streets and highways in the City (hereinafter "shade tree"). The Department at its discretion may require the planting or replanting of shade trees along the streets and highways in the City. The type of tree and the alignment and location of trees shall be determined by the Department but shall not prevent necessary and reasonable use of the street, sidewalk or abutting property or the conduct of business.

Shade trees are owned and must be maintained by the owner of the property on which the shade tree is located, however, the City retains authority to enforce the regulations contained in this part.

#### **§ 555-106. Permits.**

A. The Arborist is authorized to issue permits for certain work on shade trees by individuals other than City employees. Permits shall be required for the following:

1. Planting, treating, pruning, removing, or otherwise disturbing any tree located in the public areas;
2. Trimming, pruning, or removing any tree or portions thereof, including limbs and roots, if such tree or portions thereof may reasonably be expected to fall in public areas and cause damage to persons or property, or interfere with pedestrian or vehicle traffic using the public right of way;