**Pruning Guidelines**

- Because of the danger and experience required for tree pruning the use of a Certified Arborist is always recommended.

- Attention is to be given to the eventual symmetrical appearance of the trees. Appropriate pruning shall be done in order to maintain a tree-like form typical of the species of the tree being pruned.

- In lifting the bottom branches of trees for clearance, care should be given to the symmetrical appearance of the entire crown.

- When two branches that are rubbing against each other, one should be removed.

- Deadwood should be removed.

- When possible “V” shaped tree branch unions should be pruned out. “U” shaped branch unions are preferred.

- All final cuts shall be made sufficiently close to the trunk or parent limb, without cutting into the **branch collar** or leaving a protruding stub, so that wound closure can readily begin under normal conditions. Clean cuts shall be made at all times. All drop crotch pruning cuts will be made back to branches with a minimum of $\frac{1}{3}$ the diameter of the parent branch.

- **Under no circumstance shall a tree be topped.** In accordance with Billings municipal code Sec 25-211; no person shall intentionally damage, cut or remove a tree or shrub from public property.

**Sec. 25-211. Abuse or mutilation of public trees and shrubs.**

Unless specifically authorized by the city, no person shall intentionally damage, cut, carve, transplant or remove any tree or shrub, attach any wire, nails or other contrivance, allow any gaseous liquid or solid substance which is harmful to trees or shrubs to come in contact with them, or set fire or permit any fire to burn when such a fire or the heat thereof will injure the portion of any tree or shrub in any city park, cemetery, or on other public property.
City of Billings Boulevard Tree Pruning/Removal Application

Contact Name: __________________________   Date: ____________________________________
Contact Number: _______________________   Email Address: __________________________
Address where tree(s) are located: ______________________________________________________
Number of trees to be Pruned: _______   Kind of Tree(s):_______________________________
Number of trees to be Removed: _______   Kind of Tree(s):_______________________________
Goal for pruning/removal:
_____________________________________________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________________________________________

Work will be done by:  ☐ Landowner
☐ Contractor, Name of Company: ______________________________

Please provide sketch of tree location(s):

![Sketch of tree location(s)](image)

Please allow three working days for permit review.

Please Complete and Return:
City of Billings
Forestry Division
390 N 23rd St
Billings, MT 59101