

Know the Law: Roadside Trees in Maryland Are Regulated & Protected

Maryland's Roadside Tree Law (Title 08, Dept. of Natural Resources, Subtitle 07, Forests and Parks, Chapter 02, Roadside Tree Care) applies to all trees along "public roads," such as those in Sudbrook Park.

The law ensures the proper care of roadside trees, maintains healthy trees, and promotes aesthetically pleasing and safe public roads and rights-of-way. **A permit is required to do any tree care on roadside trees.**

The law requires that proper tree care standards be used in carrying out any permitted work on a roadside tree. This includes using proper pruning techniques, not painting cuts, not using climbing hooks or spurs, not applying pesticides to a tree on a public road right-of-way, and replacing any trees that must be removed.

A resident with a roadside tree that is dead needs to obtain a permit from the Department of Natural Resources. Once the Department verifies that a tree in the right-of-way is dead or dying and unable to be saved, a homeowner can arrange with Natural Resources to have the county remove the tree and grind the stump at no charge, except for the \$25 permit fee. The Department of Natural Resources can be reached at 410-665-5991.

In an emergency situation, such as when a storm uproots trees/brings down branches – or creates a situation of immediate danger – tree work can be performed without a permit, but the Department of Natural Resources must be notified within a week and a plan to bring the work in line with tree care standards or replace lost trees must be submitted.

Sudbrook Park has long encouraged its residents to maintain their trees, both those along the roadside and on private property. Additionally, within the historic district, trees are deemed "structures" under the law. We urge you to continue to protect and treasure your trees, and to replace and replenish the tree canopy as older trees die.

Thank you for valuing Sudbrook Park's trees – one of our community's most valuable assets.