

# Street Trees and Your Rights as a Property Owner

Street trees can be impacted through two different processes:

- 1) The Town of Hamden decides to remove a tree (anywhere in town)
- 2) UI (Avangrid) wants to remove or prune a street tree (in front of your property)

## If the Town of Hamden wants to remove a street tree (or other public tree)

- Decision to remove a tree is made by the Hamden Tree Warden – Anthony Greene – an employee of the Public Works Department
- The tree must be posted, and the posting notice must be dated
- According to state law, any “person, firm or corporation” can object to the removal or pruning of a town tree (you **do not** have to be the abutting property owner)
  - Objection must be in writing to the Tree Warden (e-mail counts)
  - Hearing will be scheduled by Town Attorney
  - Tree Warden must render a decision within 3 days after the hearing
  - Person objecting can appeal the decision

Tree Warden, Town of Hamden  
c/o Office of the Town Attorney  
2750 Dixwell Avenue  
Hamden, CT 06518

## If UI wants to prune or remove a street tree, they need...

- A permit and consent from the Tree Warden
- Consent from the abutting property owner

A work planner from a UI contractor (Asplundh or Lewis Tree) will contact you to propose tree work  
You have the right to:

- Give consent to the proposed work
- Request a modification – suggest changes- such as pruning only around the wires like they used to (known as “directional pruning”), rather than “ground to sky” pruning in which they remove all the branches on the wire side of the tree
- Object to the proposed work

An objection or request for modification must be filed in writing (e-mail counts – [trees@uinet.com](mailto:trees@uinet.com) and your tree warden [agreene@hamden.com](mailto:agreene@hamden.com)) not later than ten business days after you are contacted by UI or their contractor.

- Should your objection or request for modification be rejected by the Tree Warden – **he must issue this in writing**, you have the option to appeal the to PURA (Public Utilities Regulatory Authority) within ten days of the tree warden’s decision.
- **The burden of proof is on UI** if you object to the proposed tree removal or pruning. They must prove the tree is a hazard and threatens their distribution network.

## **MORE....**

Tree Warden, Town of Hamden  
1125 Shepard Avenue  
Hamden, CT 06518  
Phone: (203) 287-2600  
[agreene@hamden.com](mailto:agreene@hamden.com)

Hamden Tree Commission  
c/o Mayor's Office  
2750 Dixwell Avenue  
Hamden, CT 06518

Hamden Tree Commission Webpage  
<http://www.hamden.com/content/7089/7093/7966/19011/default.aspx>  
(includes Hamden's Tree Removal Policy)

To submit an objection or request for modification to United Illuminating:  
[trees@uinet.com](mailto:trees@uinet.com)

Contact **PURA (Public Utilities Regulatory Authority)** to report issues/concerns with UI or their contractors:

**Ten Franklin Square, New Britain, CT 06051**  
**Phone: 860-827-1553 or [pura.information@ct.gov](mailto:pura.information@ct.gov)**

To submit comments on testimony related to vegetation management:  
[PURA.ExecutiveSecretary@ct.gov](mailto:PURA.ExecutiveSecretary@ct.gov)

### **State Tree Laws**

Index to all CT Tree Laws

<http://www.ct.gov/deep/lib/deep/forestry/tableofcontentshyperlinked.pdf>

### **Chapter 283, Sec. 16-234**

Conducting vegetation management; notice to abutting and private property owners. Objections or requests for modifications. Provision of vegetation management plan to town or borough.

### **Chapter 283, Sec. 23-59**

Powers and duties of tree wardens

### **Public Act No. 14-151**

An Act Concerning Tree Trimming.

### **Reference Documents**

State Vegetation Management Task Force Report

[http://www.ct.gov/deep/lib/deep/forestry/vmtf/final\\_report/svmtf\\_final\\_report.pdf](http://www.ct.gov/deep/lib/deep/forestry/vmtf/final_report/svmtf_final_report.pdf)