



City and Borough of Juneau  
Parks & Recreation Department  
155 South Seward Street  
Juneau, Alaska 99801  
Telephone: (907) 586-5226

September 6, 2013

Susanne Williams  
PO Box 240765  
Douglas, AK 99824-0465

Dear Ms. Williams,

I have been asked to respond to your letter delivered September 3, 2013, requesting the Parks & Recreation Department cut alder trees in Savikko Park. I also discussed this request with your husband, Sandy Williams, when he stopped by my office last week. I understand that you would like these trees cut to improve the view into Savikko Park from your property and that of your neighbors on St. Ann's Avenue and Fifth Street.

The cutting of green (live) trees on CBJ lands is governed by the CBJ Tree Cutting Policy (attached). Trees may be cut if the CBJ Landscape Supervisor determines that they present a safety hazard, or are part of an approved development plan. The policy specifically prohibits cutting trees to enhance views from private property.

As the CBJ department responsible for managing Savikko Park, Parks & Recreation consulted with the Landscape Supervisor Ben Patterson regarding your request. Mr. Patterson inspected the trees with Mr. Williams several days ago, and determined that they do not present a safety hazard to public or private property. As such, the CBJ Tree Cutting Policy prevents me from approving your request to cut these trees.

I understand and appreciate your desire to maintain an unobstructed view into Savikko Park, so that you may observe and report suspicious activity. However, Tree Cutting Policy prevents us from cutting trees for this purpose.

Thank you for contacting us, and please let me know if you have any questions or require any additional information.

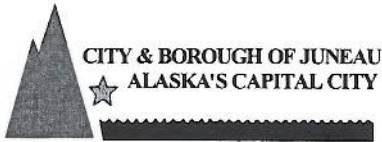
Very truly yours,



George Schaaf  
Parks & Landscape Superintendent

cc: Kim Keifer, City Manager  
Brent Fischer, Parks & Recreation Director  
Ben Patterson, Landscape Supervisor

(Attachment)



## **CITY AND BOROUGH OF JUNEAU TREE CUTTING POLICY**

**Dead and/or Down Tree Policy** – Citizens may remove dead or down trees located on vacant municipal land **NOT** used for parks, recreation sites, scenic corridors, schools, residential subdivisions, or public facilities at no charge. Trees that are removed from municipal land may be used for personal consumption only; no portion of the tree can be sold, traded, exported or used in a commercial business or venture. All unused portions of the tree shall be removed from roadways, ditches, and stream courses. **NO PERMIT IS REQUIRED FOR PERSONAL USE.**

**Green Tree Policy** – The cutting of green trees (live) is prohibited on municipal land unless written authorization has been received from the CBJ department managing the property. Trees may be cut only for the safety of the public, adjacent property owners, and public facilities, or as part of an approved public development plan. Cutting of trees for view enhancement of private property is prohibited. The managing CBJ department shall consult the Parks and Recreation Landscape Supervisor for the purpose of determining the health or risk involved with a tree. The Landscape Supervisor may refer the issue to a private consulting forester. The property owner requesting the removal of the trees will be responsible for the costs of removal. The removal will be required to be performed by a licensed and bonded tree cutting service.

**Christmas Tree Policy** – A household may remove one Christmas tree per year from municipal land, including along roadsides and beyond 50' from a hiking trail. Trees may **NOT** be cut on municipal land used for parks, recreation sites, scenic corridors, schools, residential subdivisions, or public facilities, **NOR** from muskeg areas where trees are very difficult to reestablish. Trees must be cut at ground level (not topped), and any severed branches or pieces of the trunk should be scattered. **NO PERMIT IS REQUIRED FOR PERSONAL USE.**

### **DEFINITIONS**

**Personal Use** – For personal consumption only; no portion of the tree can be sold, traded, exported, or used in a commercial business or venture.

**Green Tree (Live)** – A standing evergreen tree with green needles, or, a leaf tree which is green under the bark or has leaves, except windthrown trees.

**Dead Tree** – An evergreen tree without green needles, or, a leaf tree which is brown under the bark.

**Down Tree** – Any tree lying on the ground from natural causes (i.e. windthrown, slides, etc).

**Illegally Cut Tree** – A tree cut without authorization (usually a green tree or one cut in an area closed to wood gathering).