

Subject:
Tree Disposal

Number: 13-12
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Approved: 1/2016

Purpose:

To establish permission and procedures for disposing of fallen and removal of storm damaged and/or hazardous trees on District properties.

Policy:

The Vashon Park District Maintenance Department (aka Maintenance) shall be charged with determining the health, safety, and nuisance conditions of trees on park district properties.

Maintenance shall ensure that the removal of Park District trees adheres to public bid and contracting laws or VPD procurement policies. Maintenance shall ensure that contractors are licensed and bonded.

With the approval of the Tree Disposal Policy, the VPD Board of Commissioners has surplussed the wood from the trees for public use in keeping with Article 8, section 7 of the Washington State Constitution.

Maintenance shall be charged with determining the value of the wood at fair market value of firewood and shall make the wood available for sale to the public. If the cost to process and/or remove the wood is greater than the sale value of the wood, or if the wood does not sell, and the value is determined to be zero, Maintenance is authorized to offer the wood to the public without a charge under such terms and conditions as it may require. Maintenance shall ensure that the wood shall be for personal use and not made available for resale.

Notice of sale or free offering of the wood shall be made available via the VPD Website, and a sign shall be posted on the site.

This policy is modeled after the following RCWs related to Chapter 79.15 – Sale of Valuable Materials as applied to State lands overseen by Washington State Department of Natural Resources:

79.15.400

License to remove firewood authorized.

The department may issue licenses to residents of this state to enter upon lands under the administration or jurisdiction of the department for the purpose of removing therefrom, standing or downed timber which is unfit for any purpose except to be used as firewood.

79.15.410

Removal only for personal use.

In addition to other matters which may be required to be contained in the application for a license under this chapter the applicant must certify that the wood so removed is to be only for the applicant's own personal use and in his or her own home and that the applicant will not dispose of it to any other person.

79.15.430

Removal of firewood without charge.

Whenever the department determines that it is in the best interest of the state and there will be a benefit to the lands involved or a state program affecting such lands it may designate specific areas and authorize the general public to enter upon lands under its jurisdiction for the purposes of cutting and removing standing or downed timber for use as firewood for the personal use of the person so cutting and removing without a charge under such terms and conditions as it may require.