

# URBAN FOREST RECODIFICATION

## Enforcement Adjustments



**07/14/2026**

City Forester, Matthew Puckett

# RECODIFICATION RECAP



- First major update since 1968 to modernize language, add missing definitions, and clarify responsibilities
- Reviewed Forestry's workload: 150,000 public trees, high service demand, frozen positions, limited staffing, and a 30-year pruning cycle
- Added key definitions and clarified property-owner duties in the right-of-way that were not included in the existing code.
- Provided examples of weed trees, private-tree damage, and unapproved trees impacting city infrastructure
- Unlike other Front Range municipalities, we will continue managing right-of-way trees with this recodification
- We continue to provide storm response for trees blocking or damaging public infrastructure and for public trees impacting private property.
- Reinforced our goal to shift from reactive to proactive tree care to keep resources focused on approved public trees



# ENFORCEMENT ADJUSTMENTS

- Forestry currently does not have enforcement capabilities; these updates provide the tools needed to address unapproved or hazardous vegetation when necessary
- Prosecution Division refined enforcement language to align with updated definitions, permits, and maintenance expectations
- Strengthened enforcement supports our risk-based approach and helps maintain long-term urban forest benefits
- **Closing:** This recodification modernizes the code, reflects current practice, and ensures our limited resources and arborist expertise stay focused on the public trees that benefit the community most.



Forestry team member and grapple truck, 2025

# QUESTIONS/ CONTACT



**Matthew Puckett**

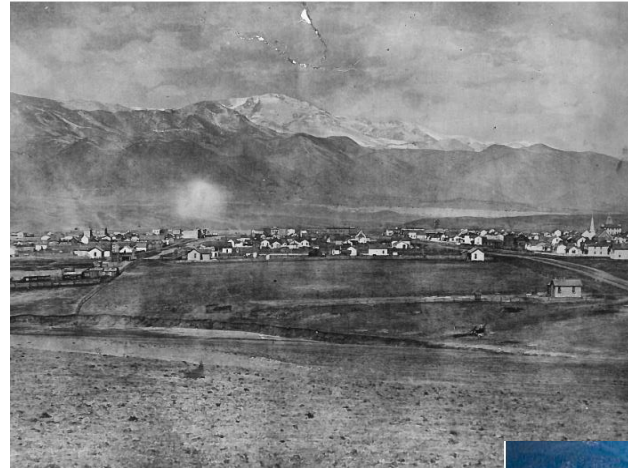
City Forester

420 W Fontanero St

Colorado Springs, Co. 80907

719-385-6550

[Matthew.Puckett@coloradosprings.gov](mailto:Matthew.Puckett@coloradosprings.gov)



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