

Village of Mayville  
“Gateway to Chautauqua Lake”

Village Tree Best Management Practices

**Introduction**

This Village shall regulate the planting, transplanting, maintenance, removal, and protection of public trees in the Village in order to provide a diversified, healthy and safe tree community.

One of the general responsibilities of the Department of Public Works is to maintain trees located on all public properties, including but not limited to right-of way, parks and other public facilities and places. This involves all phases of arboriculture work from planting through removal. These specifications are to serve as a standard for the planting, transplanting, maintenance, removal, and protection of all public trees and will apply whether work is performed by Village employees, contractors or private individuals.

The Village will endeavor to plant at minimum twelve (12) new public trees annually.

**Definitions**

**Balled & Burlapped:** Trees established in the ground that have been prepared for transplanting by digging so that the soil immediately around the roots remains undisturbed. The ball of earth containing the roots of the plant is then bound up in untreated burlap.

**Branch:** An outgrowing shoot, twig or limb that grows from the main tree trunk or stem.

**Crown:** The portion of a tree comprising the branches.

**Caliper:** The measurement of the diameter of a tree taken at a specific point above ground level or as near to that point as possible.

**Critical Root Zone:** The area around a tree requiring protection; generally the area one (1) foot outside the drip line of the tree and in no case closer than five (5) feet to the trunk of the tree.

**Drip Line:** An imaginary, roughly circular line extending from the maximum spread of the branches of a tree to the ground.

**Habit:** The natural growing characteristics of any tree which includes branch spread and distribution, branch height above ground and root spread and distribution.

**Height:** The vertical distance between the ground and the top of the stem, measured in the tree’s natural position.

**Nursery Stock:** Trees grown in or obtained from a nursery.

**Pruning:** The removal of a tree branches designed to retain the tree's natural habit, balance and stature.

**Root Collar:** The line of junction between the root of a tree and its trunk.

**Tree Removal:** The act of completely removing a tree and stump from its location.

**Tree Spread:** A term used to indicate the horizontal width of the crown of a tree.

**Tree Trimming:** The trimming of dead branches or branches that are in conflict with power lines, signage, buildings, lighting, or other facilities.

**Utility Space:** Public right-of-way space between the property owner's side of the sidewalk and the street pavement, also called the verge.

### **Tree Planting Policy**

1. **Tree Planting Along Established Streets:** When, in the opinion of the Village Board, the street right-of-way of any established street can be improved by planned tree planting, the Village may plant or cause to be planted such trees in the street right-of-way as it deems necessary.
2. **Replacement Tree Planting:** When defective trees are removed for illness of the tree or abatement of an aesthetically unpleasing tree, replacement trees shall be planted if, in the opinion of the Village Superintendent, there is adequate land space in the right-of-way to reasonably support the growth of a new tree. The number, location and species of trees provided or planted on public property shall be determined by the Village Superintendent.
3. **Public Tree Planting:** Should the Public desire to plant a memorial tree or a general beatification tree on any Village property, permission shall be obtained from the Village Superintendent. The exact location and species of the tree shall be mutually agreed upon by the purchaser and the Village Superintendent. The cost of the tree shall be borne by the person making the tree planting request.

### **Tree Planting Standards**

1. **Tree Size:** All trees planted along any right-of-way or public spaces must be of sufficient size to absorb the abuse and conditions common to trees planted in an urban environment. The minimum allowable diameter size for trees is 2.5 inch caliper, however larger sizes may be required to ensure survival for specific situations. Tree caliper shall be measured six (6) inches above the ground to the nearest ¼".

2. **Tree Condition:** Unless otherwise specified, all trees shall conform to the American Nursery and Landscape Association's Standard for Nursery Stock (Z60.1 – current addition). Each tree chosen for planting shall be high-quality, healthy tree with evidence of vigorous growth during the previous year.
3. **Tree Locations:** To allow for maintenance, minimize infrastructure conflicts and promote safety, trees shall be planted using the following guidelines:
  - a. Minimum 50' from street intersections
  - b. Minimum 40' in front of a stop sign
  - c. Minimum 6' from a driveway or sidewalk
  - d. Minimum 20' from a streetlight or utility pole
  - e. Minimum 15' from water curb valves and fire hydrants
  - f. Minimum 10' from water, sanitary sewer, or storm sewer mains
  - g. Minimum 10' from any curb or street pavement

When trees are first planted, they seem small and manageable but, trees will grow large and if improperly located will be needlessly damaged by the protection and maintenance of infrastructure.

4. **Tree Spacing:** Future tree growth problems and crowding can be minimized by careful and thoughtful placement of trees. Spacing of trees is a function of local conditions, the species planted and their mature height, spread and form. A safe minimum spacing between trees is a distance equal to the width of the species at maturity. The general guidelines for tree spacing are as follows:
  - a. 40' minimum center-to-center for small trees
  - b. 50' minimum center-to-center for medium trees
  - c. 60' minimum center-to-center for large trees
5. **Mature Height:** Tree planting in the public rights-of-way shall fit the location; example a location near the lake shall be limited to trees that will not harm the view of area properties that are able to see the lake. A tree smaller in stature would be chosen for locations near the lake.
6. **Tree Varieties & Selection:** All trees planted along any right-of-way or public spaces shall be a deciduous species approved for planting by the Village Superintendent. The Village Superintendent shall review each year the trees listed in the preferred tree list to determine whether any species, cultivar, or varieties should be added or removed from the list. Only small-growing trees shall be planted under overhead power distribution lines. Trees planted near power lines shall be carefully selected for mature habit (straight and narrow) to minimize future conflicts. Tree species selected should be from the following preferred tree list:
  - a. Large Size Trees 60' - 80' Height
    - Beech 'Fernleaf'
    - Elm 'Princeton'
    - Ginkgo 'Autumn Gold'
    - Maple 'Majesty'

- Zelkova ‘Village Green’
- b. Medium Size Trees 40' – 60' Height
- Beech ‘Riversii’
  - Gingko ‘Princeton Sentry’
  - Honeylocust ‘Shade Master’
  - Linden American
  - Maple Freemanii ‘Autumn Blaze’
- c. Small Size Trees 20' - 40' Height Ornamental
- Beech ‘Tricolor’
  - Buckeye Red
  - Catalpa Aurea
  - Dogwood ‘Stellar Pink’
  - Pear ‘Redspire’
- d. Homeowner Trees
- Any Above Species
  - American Sycamore
  - Buckeye Yellow
  - Horsechestnut ‘Ft McNair’
  - Oak Pin
  - Tulip Tree

7. **Tree Delivery:** Any trees provided to and or for the Village of Mayville shall be in accordance with the following:

- a. *Digging.* All trees shall be dug immediately before shipment unless otherwise specified, balled and burlapped trees shall have a solid ball of earth a minimum diameter and depth to encompass enough of the fibrous and feeding root system as necessary for the full recovery of the tree. Loose, broken, or manufactured root balls are unacceptable. Root balls shall be securely held in place by untreated burlap and stout hemp type rope or wire (nylon rope is not acceptable).
- b. *Form & Structure.* All trees shall be typical of their species or cultivar. They shall have normal, well-developed branches and a fibrous root system. They shall be sound, healthy trees, free from defects, disfiguring knots, sunscald, injuries, abrasions of the bark, plant diseases, insect eggs, borers and any forms of infestation. All trees shall have a single, strait trunk, with leader intact and be branched at least five feet from the trunk flare.
- c. *Provenance & Size.* All trees shall be nursery grown in a USDA hardiness zone of 6A or lower. Tree size shall be at least 2.5-inch caliper measured at six inches from the ground and no larger than 3 inches in caliper unless otherwise authorized by the Village Superintendent.

- d. *Plant Documents.* All trees shall be tagged, and names shall agree with the nomenclature of “Standardized Plant Names” as adopted by the American Joint Committee on Horticulture Nomenclature 1942 edition. All tree cultivars patented or otherwise must be certified by the supplying nursery. All nurseries shall be required to have a registration certificate from the Department of Agriculture & Markets, Division of Plant Industry, New York State certifying that plant material is apparently free from injurious insect and plant.
8. **Defective Tree Removals:** The Public Works Superintendent shall determine the need for removal of dead or defective trees on Village property or rights-of-way.
  - a. Trees shall be removed based on safety first and foremost. Hazardous trees shall be the highest priority and shall not require notification of property owners prior to their removal.
  - b. Dead trees, trees with greater than 50% of the crown dead, or those that are a significant nuisance should be removed.
  - c. If the tree is not an imminent hazard, notice of its pending removal will be given to property owners prior to removal.
  - d. The Public Works Superintendent may negotiate services and removal costs with property owners having defective trees in questionably close proximity to Village properties or rights-of-way.
9. **Tree Trimming:** The Public Works Superintendent shall receive a complaint about a specific tree that has limbs that are in a condition that warrant removal. The Superintendent shall visit the tree in question and determine the urgency of action to be taken by the Village.

**Crown Cleaning** - The selective removal of dead, dying, diseased or broken branches 1.5" caliper and larger shall be provided as needed by the Village.

**Utility Clearing** - The Electric Line Department shall maintain a ten (10) foot clearance between utility poles, wires and appurtenances and limbs or branches. Line clearance trimming of limbs and branches shall be completed without notification of property owners.

Trimming further than ten (10) feet from the lines shall require prior contact with property owners before removal. Property owners dissatisfied with baron limb stumps left by this trimming policy may contact the DPW for additional trimming.

Tree trimming on private property around utility service wires may be conducted by the Line Department upon request.

**Sidewalk Trimming** - The Streets Department shall conduct periodic sidewalk and street trimming of limbs, branches, and bushes to provide clear passage for pedestrians, vehicles and snow equipment; additional trimming shall be done around signage. Limbs and branches nominally 2-inches in diameter and smaller shall be removed without

property owner notification. Removal of larger limbs shall require prior contact with property owners.

Property owners are urged to conduct periodic pruning of trees and shrubs on the public right-of-way adjacent to their property to maintain a safe environment for motorist and pedestrians and provide a perpetually good appearance.

**End of Document**

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