

VILLAGE OF MAYVILLE

TREE TRIMMING & REMOVAL POLICY

This policy is intended to provide an equal and consistent response to complaints associated with the maintenance of trees within the street right-of-ways and publicly owned lands.

A municipality uses the term “right-of-way” to describe the public area along both sides of a street that, while may not be paved, is nonetheless maintained by the Village. This area may contain a sidewalk, signs, drainage structures, fire hydrants, trees, and utility poles/wires.

The line between the homeowner’s property and the street right-of-way is typically marked with steel survey stakes. Trees with the trunk at root level located totally or partially within the Village right-of-way shall be considered the responsibility of the Village. Additionally, trees whose trunk can be reached to touch while standing on a public sidewalk should be removed by the Village.

Private Trees Falling on Public Lands

Trees located on private lands that fall on public lands shall be removed from public lands by the Village up to the edge of the public right-of-way where possible or to a point that insures a safe condition. The remainder of the fallen tree shall be removed by the private landowner in a timely manner.

Public Trees Falling on Private Lands

Trees located on public lands that fall on private lands shall be removed from public and private lands by the Village.

Trees located on public lands that fall on private lands causing damage to private property shall not be removed by the Village. (This policy shall prevent further potential damage to private property by Village Crews).

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.

Situations resulting in limb trimming action shall be as follows:

- All dangerous conditions causing imminent harm and injury to people within the public right-of-way (immediate action).

- A defective condition causing imminent damage to property (immediate action).
- A defective condition causing harm and damage to the tree (action within 10-14 days).
- A defective condition causing a displeasing appearance (action within 4- months).

Tree Removal

The Public Works Superintendent shall receive a request for the removal of a specific tree that is in a condition that warrants removal of the entire tree. The Superintendent shall visit the tree in question and determine the necessity and urgency of action to be taken by the Village.

Situations resulting in tree removal shall be as follows:

- A dangerous condition causing imminent harm and injury to people or damage to property & vital utilities (immediate action).
- A defective condition (action within 6-months).

Utility Trimming

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 bare 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.

Street and 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 motorists and pedestrians and provide a perpetually good appearance.

Disaster Situations

During situations of natural disaster, the Village Mayor may modify or eliminate any or all tree trimming and removal policies.