

Street Tree Policy

SPECIFICATIONS.

At the time of installation, all street trees shall be of a minimum caliper of two (2") inches, measured five feet (5') above the ground.

No street trees, other than those with a mature height of less than twenty-five (25') feet, shall be planted within ten (10') feet of any overhead utility wire.

No street tree shall be planted over or within five (5') lateral feet of any underground water, sewer or electrical lines (excluding telephone, cable television and individual service lines.) No street tree shall be planted closer than ten (10') feet to a fire hydrant, utility pole or streetlight.

No street tree shall be planted within fifteen (15') of a street intersection.

TREE SPECIES SELECTION AND DIVERSITY.

This policy seeks to plant street trees where they will thrive with minimal maintenance. Choosing an appropriate street tree species involves an examination of onsite soils, rooting space, drainage, overhead wires, crown space, sun exposure, prevailing winds, winter salt spray and other streetside environmental conditions.

In addition, a primary goal of this policy is to protect the initial investment made in street tree plantings by requiring a diversity of species on the approved street tree plan. Stark examples of tree diseases or pests wiping out monocultures of street trees are abundant. Therefore, the City of Walker street tree policy seeks an assortment of tree species to provide some insurance against present and future pests and diseases.

The following list denotes street tree species that are appropriate for western Michigan.

- American Hophornbeam
- Elms
 - Accolade
 - Allee
 - Commendation
 - Pioneer
 - Triumph
 - Frontier
- Ginkgo species
- Hackberry species
- Honeylocust species
- London Plane Tree
 - Bloodgood
- Maples
 - Amur
 - Autumn Blaze
 - Celebration
 - Columnar
 - Crimson Century
 - Crimson King

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- Emerald Queen
- Freemanii
- Norway
- Pacific Sunset
- Parkway
- Princeton Gold
- Red Sunset
- Scarlet
- State Street
- Sugar
- Summershade

- Oak species
 - Bur
 - Crimson Spire
 - Pin (Not in alkaline soils)
 - Red
 - Sawtooth
 - Scarlet
 - Shingle
 - Sky Rocket
- Ohio Buckeye
- Pear species
 - Aristocrat
 - Autumn Blaze
 - Bradford
 - Cleveland
- Other species if approved by the City of Walker.

The following is a list of undesirable street trees:

- ❖ American Elm
- ❖ Beech species
- ❖ Box Elder
- ❖ Catalpa
- ❖ Cottonwood
- ❖ Mulberry species
- ❖ Paper Birch
- ❖ Pine species
- ❖ Russian Olive
- ❖ Silver Maple
- ❖ Spruce species
- ❖ Weeping Willow

STREET TREE MAINTENANCE.

The initial planting of street trees will include adequate watering, mulching, wrapping, staking, pruning and fertilization by the installer. In most cases, the street trees will be guaranteed by the installer for one year, provided that the owner of the associated platted lot or site

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condominium unit irrigates the tree on a regular basis. The owner of the associated platted lot or site condominium unit is responsible for the ongoing maintenance of their street tree.

In addition to regular tree maintenance (e.g., fertilizing, watering, staking, etc.) to be completed by the lot or unit owner, the City of Walker Department of Public Works may prune or remove street trees that impair street visibility, snow removal, utility lines, pedestrian movements or otherwise negatively affect the public health, safety and welfare. The City of Walker Department of Public Works will notify lot or unit owners at least 24 hours in advance of street tree pruning or removal.