

# Chapter 3-6

## Tree Management Program

[HISTORY: Adopted by the President and Board of Trustees of the Village of Orland Park 7-18-2022 by Ord. No. 5727. Amendments noted where applicable.]

### § 3-6-1 Definitions.

As used in this chapter, the following terms shall have the meanings indicated:

#### PARK TREES

Trees, shrubs, bushes and all other woody vegetation in public parks having individual names, and all areas owned by the Village, or to which the public has free access as a park.

#### PARKWAY

A strip of land situated within the dedicated street right-of-way and 1) located between the roadway and right-of-way line or 2) a median located between the roadways.

#### STREET TREES

Trees, shrubs, bushes and all other woody vegetation on land lying within the right-of-way lines on the parkway on either side of all streets, avenues, or ways within the Village.

#### URBAN FORESTRY

The planting, maintenance, care and protection of tree populations in urban and suburban settings. Urban forestry recognizes that:

- A. Trees absorb pollution from the air;
- B. Trees produce oxygen and absorb carbon dioxide;
- C. Trees absorb and filter pollution from stormwater runoff and reduce flooding;
- D. Trees stabilize soils and reduce erosion;
- E. Trees reduce energy consumption by shielding structures from winds and sun;
- F. Trees provide a buffer and screen against noise, light and pollution;
- G. Trees acts as integral parts of the infrastructure of a Village and as such are preserved, protected and cared for as other critical Village infrastructure;
- H. Trees provide value to homes, neighborhoods, parks and business areas;
- I. Trees provide important habitat for birds and other wildlife; and
- J. Trees beautify, protect and enhance our quality of life.

#### URBAN FORESTRY MANAGEMENT PLAN

A detailed plan developed with the purpose of:

- A. Establishing a shared vision for the proactive management of the Village's urban forest;

- B. Protecting the urban forest as an essential component of the Village's infrastructure;
- C. Establishing nationally recognized standards for tree planting, selection, care and preservation;
- D. Providing detailed information, recommendations, and resources to effectively manage public trees for maximum, long-term benefits to the community; and
- E. The establishment of policy and procedure manuals, specifications, public education, annual forestry work plans and budgets.

#### **VILLAGE FORESTER**

An individual trained in the profession of forestry who has a forestry degree or similar from an institution of advanced education and substantial experience in the planting, maintenance, care and protection of trees. Additional skill requirements for the Village Forester can be found in the urban forestry management plan.

#### **§ 3-6-2 Responsibilities and Duties.**

- A. The Village Forester shall be responsible for making recommendations to the Village President and Board of Trustees for the development, maintenance and administration of the Village's urban forestry management plan.
- B. More specifically, it shall be the responsibility of the Village Forester to study, investigate, counsel and develop and regularly update the Village's urban forestry management plan. The urban forestry management plan, as well as any subsequent updates, shall be presented to the President and Board of Trustees and, upon acceptance and approval of the corporate authorities, shall constitute the Village's official urban forestry management plan for the Village. The Village Forester, when requested by the President and Board of Trustees, shall consider, investigate, make finding, report and recommend upon any special matter or question coming within the scope of its work.
- C. The Tree Preservation Ordinance regulates trees on public property, with the exception of heritage trees, potential risk trees and other development requirements noted in the Land Development Code.

#### **§ 3-6-3 Street Tree Species.**

The "List of Recommended Plant Species" for the Village is found in the landscaping section of the Land Development Code. No species other than those included in this list may be planted as street trees without written permission of the Village Forester or designee.

#### **§ 3-6-4 Spacing.**

A minimum of one parkway tree shall be planted per 40 feet or 30 feet of frontage, as determined by § 6-305, Landscape and Tree Preservation, of the Land Development Code.

#### **§ 3-6-5 Distance from Curb and Sidewalk and Overhead Wires.**

Trees shall be located so as not to interfere with overhead wires or traffic or pedestrian safety.

#### **§ 3-6-6 Distance from Street Corners and Fire Plugs.**

No tree or bush with a mature height of more than two feet shall be planted within a distance of 33 feet of any street corner, measured from the point of the nearest intersecting curbs or curblines as extended. No tree shall be planted closer than six feet to any fire hydrant.

#### **§ 3-6-7 Public Tree Care.**

- A. The Village shall have the right to plant, prune, maintain and remove trees, plants and shrubs within the parkways of all streets, alleys, avenues, lanes, squares and public grounds, as may be necessary to insure public safety or to preserve or enhance the symmetry and beauty of such public grounds. However, such

parkway shall be maintained by the adjacent property owner unless an agreement for maintenance has been reached with the Village.

- B. The Village Forester may remove or have removed any tree or part thereof which is in an unsafe condition or which by reason of its nature is injurious to sewers, electric power lines, gas lines, waterlines, or other public improvements, or is affected with any injurious fungus, insect or other pest. This section does not prohibit the planting of street trees by adjacent property owners, providing that the selection and location of said trees is in accordance with the official street tree species list.

### **§ 3-6-8 Tree Topping.**

It shall be unlawful as a normal practice for any person, firm or Village department to top any street tree, park tree, or other tree on public property. Topping is defined as the severe cutting back of limbs to stubs larger than three inches in diameter within the tree's crown to such a degree so as to remove the normal canopy and disfigure the tree. Street or park trees located on public property which are severely damaged by storms or other causes, or certain trees under utility wires or other obstructions where other pruning practices are impractical may be exempted from this chapter at the determination of the President and Board of Trustees.

### **§ 3-6-9 Pruning; Right-of-Way Clearance.**

Every owner of any tree overhanging any street or right-of-way within the Village shall prune the branches so that such branches shall not obstruct the view of any street intersection and so that there shall be a clear space of eight feet above the surface of the street or sidewalk. Said owners shall remove all dead, diseased or dangerous trees, or broken or decayed limbs which constitute a menace to the safety of the public. The Village, in accordance with the law, shall have the right to prune any tree or shrub on private property when it interferes with the proper spread of light along the street from a streetlight or interferes with visibility of any traffic control device or sign.

### **§ 3-6-10 Dead or Diseased Tree Removal on Private Property.**

The Village, in accordance with the law, shall have the right to cause the removal of any dead or diseased trees on private property within the Village, when such trees constitute a hazard to life and property, or harbor insects or disease which constitute a potential threat to other trees within the Village. The Village will notify, in writing, the owners of such trees. Removal is the responsibility of said owners and shall be done by the owners at their own expense within 60 days after the date of service of notice or such other time as may be agreed upon by the Village and the property owner. In the event of failure of owners to comply with such provisions, the Village shall have the authority to remove such trees and file a lien against the property for the amount of the costs of removal.

### **§ 3-6-11 Removal of Stumps.**

All stumps of street and park trees shall be removed below the surface of the ground so that the top of the stump shall not project above the surface of the ground.

### **§ 3-6-12 Interference with Village.**

It shall be unlawful for any person to prevent, delay or interfere with the Village, or any of its agents, while engaging in and about the planting, cultivating, mulching, pruning, spraying, or removing of any street trees, park trees, or dead or diseased trees on private grounds.

### **§ 3-6-13 Urban Forestry Management Plan.**

- A. The Village shall adopt and maintain an urban forestry management plan (UFMP). This plan shall be the framework for the protection, management, and planting of trees within the Village and shall support and clearly define the regulations identified in the Tree Preservation Ordinance. At minimum the UFMP shall contain:
1. A defined multiyear urban forestry strategy with clearly identified goals;

2. A strategy for completion and maintenance of a tree inventory on public property;
  3. Clear guidelines on tree species and age diversity;
  4. Clear identification of replacement value and requirements for tree removal or damage;
  5. A list of priority locations for new tree plantings;
  6. A recommended and prohibited tree species list;
  7. Clearly defined specifications for tree planting, pruning, and impact reduction;
  8. A risk assessment and management program;
  9. A heritage tree preservation, protection and mitigation program;
  10. A strategy for management, preservation and protection of naturalized areas;
  11. Clear identification of staff qualifications, training, support and needs;
  12. Specifications for contracted labor and consulting including insurance requirements;
  13. Strategies to eliminate nuisance/invasive trees and other vegetation that constitute a danger or nuisance to the public, Village property or health of other desired trees and vegetation in the Village;
  14. Clear identification of forestry equipment and resource needs; and
  15. A proposed forestry budget with multiyear year projections and goals.
- B. The Village shall establish and maintain an updated inventory of all public trees. The urban forestry management plan shall be based on this inventory.
- C. The Village shall have on staff a Village Forester. Any urban forestry work completed by a contractor on public trees located within the Village shall be under the direction of the Village Forester.
- D. The Village shall require that any contractor, working on behalf of the Village, utilize a certified arborist(s) for all work pertaining to trees, including but not limited to removal, pruning and planting activities in compliance with applicable American National Standards Institute (ANSI) standards.
- E. The Village shall provide special protection to heritage trees as detailed in the urban forestry management plan.
- F. It is recognized that diverse species and age of trees throughout the Village are critical to the health of the urban forest. Specifications for species and age diversity, planting and management shall be contained in the urban forestry management plan.