

## **Town of North Hempstead Tree Policy**

The Town Board is authorized pursuant to Section 20A-4 of the Town Code to adopt and amend the Town's Tree Removal Policy, which governs the removal of trees and saplings from a public right-of-way, the Tree Lawn and from Town-owned public places. This policy is intended to provide reasonable public notice of the removal of a tree(s), is designed to minimize the removal of trees other than for public safety or other public benefit and sets forth replanting requirements. For purposes of this policy, use of the term "tree" shall also include "sapling", as defined herein.

Under this policy, the Town has determined that it is necessary to have different processes for tree removals that are undertaken by the Town, depending on the circumstances of the tree removal. A *Category 1 Tree Removal* deals with trees that are to be removed by or on behalf of the Town in conjunction with a sidewalk, curb or other right-of-way project, regardless of size or scope of the project. A *Category 2 Tree Removal* includes all other tree removals by or on behalf of the Town from a public right-of-way, or from Town parks or other Town-owned property. Procedures related to a *Category 3 Tree Removal* or *Category 4 Tree Removal* shall be followed by the Town upon application from a private applicant seeking to remove a tree on a public right-of-way and/or private property pursuant to Town Code Chapter 20A.

As defined by the Town Code, a tree is "Any woody plant, dead or alive, which is six inches or more in diameter at a height of 4 1/2 feet above the base of the trunk, including its root system and the environment within the area defined by the outermost limits of its branches."

A sapling is "Any woody plant, dead or alive, which is three inches or more in diameter at a height of three feet above the base of the trunk, including its root system and the environment within the area defined by the outermost limits of its branches." The Tree Lawn is "the portion of a public right-of-way not covered by pavement which lies between the border and the portion of the public right-of-way used for vehicular traffic."

### **I. CATEGORY 1 TREE REMOVAL Sidewalk, Curb Cut or Other Right-of-Way Work**

The Town is cognizant of the significant environmental, health and aesthetic role that trees play in our Township. It is the Town's policy to preserve existing trees when feasible during sidewalk projects.

The Town is aware that sometimes there will be a conflict between its efforts to preserve existing trees and its efforts to maintain safe sidewalks and curbs. The Town further recognizes that tree roots will sometimes cause uplifting and/or damage to sidewalks and/or roadside curbs. Trees will be removed only when necessary to ensure the health, safety and welfare of the general public. When trees are removed they will be re-planted in accordance with the Tree Planting/Replanting Policy set forth in Section V below.

For these reasons the Town has established the following policy to address these ongoing conflicts:

**1. Inspection of work**

The Sidewalk District will inspect work areas to determine the following:

- (a) If a repair of the sidewalk(s) is necessary;
- (b) If a replacement of the sidewalk(s) is necessary;
- (c) If the sidewalk work can be completed without removal of the tree while maintaining safety standards;
- (d) If the sidewalk work requires the removal of a tree(s); and
- (e) If a section(s) of curb needs to be replaced or repaired due to the sidewalk work.

The inspection in this section (1) is referred to as the “initial assessment”.

**2. Determination of final scope of work**

Upon the completion of the initial assessment, a final scope of work will be developed. The Sidewalk District should use best efforts to repair sidewalks without removing trees where appropriate. If feasible, the Sidewalk District should reposition new sidewalk sections to be routed farther from the tree trunk and exposed roots by moving part of the sidewalk closer to the adjacent property or the adjacent road as long as such area is within the Town’s right-of-way. When the Sidewalk District determines based on its initial assessment that work can be completed without removing a tree or cutting tree roots, the Sidewalk District ~~shall~~ will create a final scope of work without the need for input from an arborist.

If the Sidewalk District determines following its initial assessment that a tree must be removed, or tree roots need to be cut, then a further evaluation is required, which will require the input of an arborist, either under the Town’s employ or by a contractor procured by the Town through its procurement process and approved by the Town Board. The Highway Department shall be responsible for obtaining input from an arborist upon a request or referral from the Sidewalk District.

No action with respect to any tree, except when such tree constitutes a hazard as described herein and in Town Code Section 20A-6(A), shall be taken except as informed by the arborist report.

The final scope of work shall specify, based on the arborist report, if applicable, whether the tree must be removed or roots cut, or in the alternative, can be safely left as is, or whether other steps can be taken that will allow the tree to remain.

**3. Notification of work**

The Highway Department shall be responsible for providing notification of work to be undertaken when done in connection with a tree removal, to the following:

- (a) The Supervisor, the Councilmember for the area in which the work is to be undertaken and their legislative aide prior to the start of work.
  
- (b) For any tree to be removed pursuant to the final scope of work, the following notice(s) shall be conspicuously posted on the tree for, when practicable, no less than 7 calendar days prior to the removal of the tree. The notice(s) shall be oriented towards pedestrian and vehicular traffic wherever possible. The text of the notice shall be black lettering on a bright orange or similar color background:

***NOTICE OF INTENT TO REMOVE THIS TREE***

Service Request: No. \_\_\_\_\_

Posted Date: \_\_\_\_\_, 202--, \_\_\_\_\_ AM/PM

Location: \_\_\_\_\_

*This tree shall be removed under the authority of the Town of North Hempstead in connection with a right-of-way project. An arborist report has been obtained by the Town with respect to this tree. A copy of the arborist report can be obtained by visiting [northhempsteadny.gov/arborist-reports](http://northhempsteadny.gov/arborist-reports) OR by contacting 311 or (516) 869-6311.*

- (c) The Highway Department, in conjunction with the IT Department or other relevant department, shall cause a copy of each tree removal notice to be placed on the Town's website.
  
- (d) A copy of the arborist report, subject to any required redactions, shall be placed on the Town's website within 3 business days of its receipt by the Highway Department. Except in cases where a tree constitutes a hazard as described herein and in Town Code Section 20A-6(A), the arborist report shall remain available on the website for at least 7 calendar days after its posting.
  
- (e) If a tree on a public right-of-way or Town-owned public place constitutes a hazard to adjoining public rights-of-way or to persons using the adjoining public rights-of-way and if such hazard cannot be effectively eliminated by

trimming the tree or taking other precautionary steps available to the Town that will allow the tree to remain, the tree may be removed without public notice by the Highway Department.

- (f) Whenever possible, the Highway Department shall take photographs prior to the tree being removed, records of which shall be retained in accordance with applicable law.

#### **4. Performance of work**

When necessary, the Sidewalk District shall coordinate sidewalk repair and/or replacement with Highway Department activity, including but not limited to tree and stump removal, etc. Both the tree removal and stump removal must occur prior to any sidewalk work occurring. The Town, its authorized contractor(s), or electrical utility (if the removal involves electrical wires) will complete the work identified.

#### **5. Completion of work**

The Sidewalk District will complete their work and notify the Highway Department of the property or properties that require tree plantings. The Highway Department will follow the replanting policy set forth in the Tree Planting/Replanting Policy (see Section V).

## **II. CATEGORY 2 TREE REMOVAL**

### **All other tree removals performed by the Town**

A. Pursuant to Town Code Section 20A-4, the Highway Superintendent has authority if the tree sought to be removed is in the public right-of-way and the Commissioner of Parks and Recreation has authority if the tree sought to be removed is in a Town-owned public place. The phrase “the Department having jurisdiction” shall refer to the referenced authority of the Highway Superintendent or Commissioner of Parks, as the case may be.

B. When the Superintendent of Highways, the Commissioner of Parks and Recreation, the Commissioner of Solid Waste, the Commissioner of Administrative Services, or the Port Washington Public Parking District intends to have a Town tree removed from a public right of way, park or other Town owned property<sup>1</sup>, or if the Executive Director of the Community

---

<sup>1</sup> The provisions of this category shall not apply to the Town landfill properties in Port Washington. Maintenance of the landfill is governed by a 1992 consent decree as well as a Town DEC agreement. Lands surrounding the transfer station and around the retention basins, as well as Town administration property remain subject to the provisions of this category.

FINAL ADOPTED AMENDMENTS  
APPROVED ON JULY 11, 2023

Development Agency (CDA) intends to have a tree removed from CDA owned or administered property where a license agreement exists between the CDA and the Town establishing the property for public use, when such work is not done in conjunction with a *Category 1 Tree Removal* project referenced above, the following steps shall be taken:

- 1) An inspection of the tree at issue shall take place by the Department having jurisdiction to determine that removal is required pursuant Town Code Section 20A-4. The Department or entity seeking to remove a tree, if different than the Department having jurisdiction, shall request an inspection from the appropriate Department having jurisdiction.

Following the inspection, a notice of intent to remove such tree shall be prepared by the Department having jurisdiction and shall specify the reason for the removal. The notice shall be conspicuously posted on the tree for a period of not less than 7 calendar days. The notice(s) shall be oriented towards pedestrian and vehicular traffic wherever possible. The text of the notice shall be black lettering on a bright orange or similar color background;

- a. The Department having jurisdiction, in conjunction with the IT Department or other relevant department, shall cause a copy of each tree removal notice to be placed on the Town's website.
- b. The text of the notice placed on the proposed tree to be removed and on the website shall be, in sum and substance, consistent with the following, except that nothing herein shall preclude the Department having jurisdiction from filling in spaces left blank in the notice:

**NOTICE OF INTENT TO REMOVE THIS TREE**

Service Request: No. \_\_\_\_\_  
Posted Date: \_\_\_\_\_, 202--, \_\_\_\_\_ AM/PM  
Request Received: \_\_\_\_\_, 202--, \_\_\_\_\_ AM/PM  
Location: \_\_\_\_\_

A tree located in the right-of-way at/near the above address has been requested to be removed. The Town has inspected the tree and has recommended removal based on the following reason: \_\_\_\_\_.

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that pursuant to Chapter 20A of the Town Code entitled "Environmental Planning, Conservation and Care of Trees", the removal of this tree will commence no sooner than 7 calendar days from date of posting of this notice. However,

FINAL ADOPTED AMENDMENTS  
APPROVED ON JULY 11, 2023

the tree removal schedule is prioritized by the Town (Highway Department) and is subject to weather conditions and emergencies, as applicable.

If you object to the removal of this tree, please call 311 or (516) 869-6311, or email [feedback@northhempsteadny.gov](mailto:feedback@northhempsteadny.gov) within 7 days of this posting. Please refer to this Service Request number and the location of the tree. You will be required to provide your name, address, telephone number and email address when you call 311.

- 2) Simultaneously with the posting of such notice, notice by e-mail shall be given to the Supervisor, the Council Member in whose district the tree is located and 311;
  - a. Any resident may submit their email address and contact information to 311 and request that they be notified of a tree to be removed in their zip code.
- 3) The notice posted on the tree shall include the statement that any resident who would like to object to the removal of the tree shall call 311 on or before a date certain, which in no case shall be less than 7 calendar days from the date of posting;
- 4) 311 shall immediately notify both the Supervisor and the appropriate Council Member when an objection is received, including the name, address, telephone number and e-mail address of each such resident calling to object;
- 5) If an objection is received, either the Supervisor or the Council Member, following consultation with the relevant Town department, may request that an independent arborist be retained to inspect the tree and make recommendations as to whether the tree must be removed or, in the alternative, can be safely left as is, or whether trimming or other precautionary steps that are available to the Town can be taken that will allow the tree to remain;
- 6) If an independent arborist report is requested by either the Supervisor or Council Member, no action shall be taken until such report is provided to both. Following receipt of the report, unless the Supervisor and/or Council Member direct otherwise, the recommendation of the arborist shall be followed to the extent possible by the Department having jurisdiction;
  - (a) A copy of the arborist report, subject to any required redactions, shall be placed on the Town's website within 3 business days of its receipt by the Highway Department. The Highway Department shall provide a copy of the arborist report to the Parks Department if that department is the Department having jurisdiction. However, once a final determination is made with respect to the subject tree pursuant to Subsection 6 above, the Department having jurisdiction shall act accordingly, and if removal is recommended, the Department having jurisdiction may proceed with such action.

FINAL ADOPTED AMENDMENTS  
APPROVED ON JULY 11, 2023

- 7) The Town shall maintain a list of independent arborists who are approved by the Town Board and qualified to make a report when one is requested. In no event shall such arborist be hired to remove the tree;
- 8) If no objection is received, then the Department having jurisdiction shall be authorized to proceed with the tree removal;
- 9) If a tree on a public right-of-way or Town-owned public place constitutes a hazard to adjoining public rights-of-way or to persons using the adjoining public rights-of-way and if such hazard cannot be effectively eliminated by trimming the tree or taking other precautionary steps available to the Town that will allow the tree to remain, the tree may be removed without public notice by the Department having jurisdiction. In such a case, the Supervisor and Council Member shall be notified in advance by e-mail or telephone, if possible. Whenever possible, photographs shall be taken by the Department having jurisdiction prior to the tree being removed; and
- 10) The Department having jurisdiction will follow the replanting policy set forth in the Tree Planting/Replanting Policy (see Section V).

**III. CATEGORY 3 TREE REMOVAL**

**By a private applicant for tree removal on a public right-of-way pursuant to Town Code § 20A-5.1**

- A. When the Superintendent of Highways receives a permit application seeking to have a Town tree removed from a public right of way (not done in conjunction with a *Category 1 or Category 2 Tree Removal* and not related to a curb cut application), the following steps shall be taken:
  - (1) An inspection of the tree at issue shall take place by the Highway Department to determine whether removal is appropriate. If the Highway Department determines that removal is required, the Superintendent of Highways will provide the applicant with a notice of intent to remove such tree. Simultaneously with the Superintendent providing the applicant with the notice, the Superintendent of Highways shall notify by e-mail the Supervisor, the Council Member in whose district the tree is located and 311;
    - a. Any resident may submit their email address and contact information to 311 and request that they be notified of a tree to be removed in their zip code.
  - (2) The notice posted on the tree shall include the statement that any resident who would like to object to the removal of the tree shall call 311 on or before a date certain, which in no case shall be less than 7 calendar days from the date of posting. The notice(s) shall be oriented towards pedestrian and vehicular traffic wherever possible.

FINAL ADOPTED AMENDMENTS  
APPROVED ON JULY 11, 2023

The text of the notice shall be black lettering on a bright orange or similar color background;

- a. The Highway Department, in conjunction with the IT Department or other relevant department, shall cause a copy of each tree removal notice to be placed on the Town's website.
- b. The text of the notice placed on the proposed tree to be removed and on the website shall be, in sum and substance, consistent with the following, except that nothing herein shall preclude the Highway Department from filling in spaces left blank in the notice:

***NOTICE OF INTENT TO REMOVE THIS TREE***

Service Request: No. \_\_\_\_\_  
Posted Date: \_\_\_\_\_, 202--, \_\_\_\_\_ AM/PM  
Request Received: \_\_\_\_\_, 202--, \_\_\_\_\_ AM/PM  
Location: \_\_\_\_\_

The Town has received a tree removal permit application seeking removal of a tree located in the right-of-way at/near the above address. The Town has inspected the tree and has recommended issuing the tree removal permit based on the following reason:

\_\_\_\_\_.

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that pursuant to Chapter 20A of the Town Code entitled "Environmental Planning, Conservation and Care of Trees", the removal of this tree will commence no sooner than 7 calendar days from date of posting of this notice.

If you object to the removal of this tree, please call 311 or (516) 869-6311, or email [feedback@northhempsteadny.gov](mailto:feedback@northhempsteadny.gov) within 7 days of this posting. Please refer to this Service Request number and the location of the tree. You will be required to provide your name, address, telephone number and email address when you call 311.

- (3) 311 shall immediately notify both the Supervisor and the appropriate Council Member when an objection is received, including the name, address, telephone number and e-mail address of each such resident calling to object;
- (4) If an objection is received, either the Supervisor or the Council Member may request that an independent arborist be retained by the Town to inspect the tree and make recommendations as to whether the tree must be removed or, in the alternative, can be safely left as is, or whether trimming or other precautionary steps that are available to the Town can be taken that will allow the tree to remain;



FINAL ADOPTED AMENDMENTS  
APPROVED ON JULY 11, 2023

- (5) If an independent arborist report is requested by either the Supervisor or Council Member, no permit shall be issued by the Highway Department until such report is provided to both. Following receipt of the report, unless the Supervisor and/or Council Member direct otherwise, the recommendation of the arborist shall be followed by the Highway Department;
    - a. A copy of the arborist report, subject to any required redactions, shall be placed on the Town's website within 3 business days of its receipt by the Highway Department. However, once a final determination is made with respect to the subject tree pursuant to Subsection 5 above, the Highway Department shall act accordingly, and if removal is recommended, the Highway Department may proceed with issuing such tree removal permit.
  - (6) The Town shall maintain a list of independent arborists who are approved by the Town Board and qualified to make a report when one is requested. In no event shall the Town retain an arborist who has also been hired by the applicant to remove the tree;
  - (7) If no objection is received, then the Highway Department shall be authorized to proceed with issuing the tree removal permit; and
  - (8) The Highway Department will follow the replanting policy set forth in the Tree Planting/Replanting Policy (see Section V).
- B. When the Superintendent of Highways receives a permit application seeking to have a Town tree removed from a public right of way in conjunction with a curb cut application, the Superintendent of Highways shall be guided by the following criteria in making the determination to grant or deny the application:
- (1) The ability of the applicant to rearrange the layout of the proposed curb cut to minimize the removal of trees.
  - (2) The necessity of removal of the tree in question.
  - (3) The condition of the tree with respect to disease and danger of falling. In the event that the diseased condition of the tree is not evident, the Superintendent of Highways maintains the right to require the applicant to submit proof from a New York State certified arborist.
  - (4) The proximity of the tree to proposed or existing curb cut.
  - (5) The significance of the tree in regard to:
    - [a] The size of the tree.
    - [b] The rarity of the species.

[c] The historical value of the tree.

(6) The effect of removal on:

[a] The character of the location with respect to vegetation management practices.

[b] Ecological systems.

[c] The existing screening of any road or highway bordering the location in question.

[d] Erosion control from the location on which the tree is to be removed and its impact on adjacent parcels.

(7) Whether a denial of the permit will result in unnecessary hardship or severe financial loss to the applicant.

**IV. CATEGORY 4 TREE REMOVAL**

**By a private applicant for tree removal on a public right-of-way or private property pursuant to Town Code Chapter 20A, when tree roots infiltrate the house sewer connection.**

In reviewing an application for tree removal from a public right-of-way or private property in connection with an application for removal based on tree roots interfering with a house sewer connection, the Superintendent of Highways or the Commissioner of Buildings shall require the following prior to issuing a tree removal permit:

- 1) An original paid invoice from a licensed plumber or other drain cleaning service professional for work performed on the house sewer connection at the property resulting from damage caused by tree roots (from the tree sought to be removed) having infiltrated the house sewer connection causing damage. The Highway Department shall return the original paid invoice upon request of the submitter.

If the tree at issue is in the public right-of-way, the Highway Department shall utilize the tree removal notice and procedure set forth in Category III.

**V. PLANTING/REPLANTING POLICY**

- A. Any tree removed by the Town in the right-of-way or other Town property shall require the Department having jurisdiction to replant a tree in accordance with the following:

FINAL ADOPTED AMENDMENTS  
APPROVED ON JULY 11, 2023

1) Town Property (not within the right-of-way)

To the extent practicable, any tree removed on Town property (not within the right-of-way) shall be replanted by the Parks Department within one year from the date of removal.

2) Right-of-Way (adjacent to private property)

The properties requiring a replacement tree(s) will be included in the nearest available scheduled planting schedule. The Highway Department will be responsible for maintaining a list of properties requiring tree(s) planting in the right-of-way. Properties requiring a tree planting shall not be removed from the list until such tree planting has occurred. The Highway Department shall keep a record confirming the date when such plantings occur. Such information for the preceding year shall be provided to the Tree Advisory Committee on or before May 1 of each year.

The Town shall procure replacement trees in accordance with its purchasing policy, consistent with the Tree Standards and Specifications to be approved by the Town Board, subject to the advice of the Tree Advisory Committee. Replacement tree(s) shall generally be a minimum diameter of 3 inches, measured at 4 1/2 feet in height. However, if an arborist under the Town's employ or a contractor procured by the Town determines that the Tree Lawn in a particular location is insufficient to accommodate the root ball of a 3-inch diameter tree, the arborist may approve the planting of the maximum allowable tree for the planting area but in no case shall such tree be less than 2 inches in diameter, measured at 4 1/2 feet in height.

Use of root barriers will be implemented where possible. Replacement tree(s) will be based on available stock and the most appropriate tree species for the location(s) with a focus on native, disease resistant, drought resistant, deep rooted species to ensure a long life and avoid future sidewalk lifts, if applicable. The Highway Department shall continue to be responsible for planting replacement trees in the right-of-way. The Highway Department shall determine the location of where tree replacements shall be planted based on site conditions and the physical layout of the right-of-way in the area of replanting.

Prior to ordering replacement trees to be planted in the right-of-way, the Highway Department shall have an arborist assess each proposed site to determine that the appropriate type of tree will be planted in the proposed location. The arborist may be either under the Town's employ or a contractor procured by the Town. The arborist's

FINAL ADOPTED AMENDMENTS  
APPROVED ON JULY 11, 2023

assessment of “right tree, right place” shall be followed when the tree order is placed. The Highway Department shall develop a plan to ensure that the type of tree recommended by the arborist is planted at the particular site.

Best efforts should be made by the Highway Department to replace each tree that is removed with a new tree planting. This may include the removal of tree stumps for removed trees and existing root systems where necessary. If, based on the recommendation of the Highway Superintendent, a replacement tree is unable to be planted at said property due to physical restrictions or other site considerations in the utility strip/right-of-way area, the Highway Department will review the Tree Planting Service Requests and choose the next-in-line service request (based on creation date) and plant the replacement tree at that location (if suitable for tree planting).

Educational material will be provided to the property owner(s) on tree watering and maintenance when the replacement tree(s) is planted. The Highway Department, with input from the Tree Advisory Committee, will assist in the preparation of this educational material.

3) Right-of-Way (adjacent to Town property)

If a tree is removed from a right-of-way adjacent to Town property, to the extent practicable, the tree shall be replaced in the right-of-way near the same location as the removed tree. If a replacement tree is unable to be planted in the right-of-way, then the replacement tree shall be planted, to the extent practicable, on the adjacent Town property. If a replacement tree is unable to be planted on the adjacent Town property, then the Town shall plant the replacement trees at another suitable location.

B. The above provisions notwithstanding, in any case where a property owner or utility (See Chapter 20A) seeks to plant or replant a tree in the Town’s right-of-way, or is required to replant a tree in the Town’s right-of-way pursuant to a tree removal permit, the following process shall be complied with:

- 1) The property owner or utility shall file a tree planting permit application with the Highway Department together with the requisite permit fee, prior to undertaking any tree planting.
- 2) If a property owner or utility procures a tree satisfying the Town’s tree planting specifications, the property owner or utility may arrange with the Highway Department for the planting of the tree in the adjacent right-of-way. No permit is required if the Town plants the tree.

C. Request a Tree Program

In addition to trees removed by the Town that require a tree replanting, the Town will also plant trees in the Town's right-of-way upon request from property owners. The Highway Department will determine the sufficiency of the location requested for the tree planting. Locations that are approved for a Town tree planting will be included on the replanting schedule and be handled in the same manner as the replanting policy described above.

D. Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) and other invasive insects/diseases; Heat island mitigation and tree canopy deficient locations.

(1) In recent years, the Town has observed an increase in trees requiring removal because of EAB infestations or as a result of other invasive insects or diseases. EAB is an invasive wood boring beetle that has killed hundreds of millions of ash trees. Absent extraordinary circumstances such as a heritage tree, the Town will not utilize chemical treatment/insecticide options to treat ash trees.

The Town recognizes how the landscape of a particular block or community can suddenly change when any tree is removed. When groupings of trees are removed, as may be the case with EAB or as a result of other invasive insects or diseases, the change in landscape may be even more noticeable.

It is the policy of the Town of North Hempstead to implement a strategic removal and replanting program to mitigate the spread of invasive insects or diseases and the resulting impact of tree canopy loss.

(2) The Town is aware that some streets or neighborhoods that once had trees planted in the right-of-way area have few trees remaining or are simply tree canopy deficient. The lack of trees may create or contribute to the "heat island effect", which the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) describes as "urbanized areas that experience higher temperatures than outlying areas"<sup>2</sup>. This effect leads to extreme heat conditions and other negative impacts of climate change.

It is the policy of the Town of North Hempstead to mitigate the heat island effect or address canopy deficient locations by planting trees and/or replanting trees in areas where trees are lacking.

(3) The Highway Department is authorized to utilize up to 20% of its tree replanting inventory to replace trees that were removed due to EAB or other invasive insects/diseases or to plant and/or replant trees in areas that would mitigate the heat island effect or canopy deficient areas, irrespective of the properties order on the tree planting list.

---

<sup>2</sup> Source: [www.epa.gov/heatislands](http://www.epa.gov/heatislands)

#### E. Tree Diversity

The Town is committed to achieving street tree species diversity in its tree planting program. The purpose of species diversity is to increase resiliency in case of tree disease or invasive insects.

When ordering trees for planting, the Town will strive for compliance with the following:

- No more than 10 percent of one species.
- No more than 20 percent of one genus.
- No more than 30 percent of one family.

#### **VI. TREE STANDARDS AND SPECIFICATION; Preferred Street Trees and Prohibited Street Tree Species**

It is the policy of the Town to: (a) plant the right tree in the right place, taking into consideration site conditions and/or other relevant factors in or near the proposed tree planting area; and (b) focus on planting native trees with a goal towards diversity of species.

In furtherance of this policy, the attached preferred street tree list, dated June 6, 2023, shall be the official street tree planting list used under Section V of this policy. For purposes of Town initiated plantings, the preferred street tree list shall be effective January 1, 2024. The Town shall update the approved list as necessary. Requests to add additional tree species to the preferred street tree list may be submitted to the Tree Advisory Committee on a form provided by the committee for that purpose.

#### **VII. TREE MANAGEMENT PRACTICES**

- A. The Highway Department will continue to respond to tree related service requests received through the 311 system and undertake routine tree maintenance based on observations. To help keep the Town's tree canopy healthy and safe, the Highway Department is authorized to address tree related conditions that present the highest risk to public safety and property before other work. The Highway Department will set priorities for each tree based upon the results of inspections, including those made from service requests.
- B. The Town currently utilizes tree pruning and tree removal as tree management practices. Under limited circumstances, when recommended by an arborist, and subject to the availability of an outside contractor to perform the work, the Town

FINAL ADOPTED AMENDMENTS  
APPROVED ON JULY 11, 2023

may utilize tree cabling and bracing. If the Highway Superintendent determines that cabling and bracing is necessary, all work must follow the standards established by the International Society of Arboriculture.