

TREE REPLACEMENT POLICY

Effective Date: September 16, 2014

Revision Date: n/a



1. **PURPOSE:** To outline the process for the replacement of parkway trees in the public right-of-way.
2. **GOALS:**
 - a. As a certified "Tree City USA" community, it is the desire of the Village to replace a majority of the approximately 1,800 trees lost to the Emerald Ash Borer (EAB).
 - b. The Village also desires to continue enhancing the diversity of the parkway tree population through the careful placement of new trees in an effort to avoid future impacts similar to the level of devastation created by the EAB.
3. **DEPARTMENTS/DIVISIONS AFFECTED:** Public Works Department / O&M Division
4. **POLICY:** This policy shall apply to the replacement of trees located within the public right-of-way or public property owned by the Village of Cary. The multi-year replacement program will be funded by the Village and replace the previous cost-sharing program. Tree species and locations will be determined by the Village, except as otherwise noted in this policy.
5. **PROCEDURE:**
 - a. Program Length: Due to the significant number of trees lost to the EAB, the replacement program will continue over multiple years, depending on the level of funding that is approved with each fiscal year budget. The Village desires to complete the program to replace lost ash trees in approximately 6 years.

Other parkway tree replacements subsequent to the completion of the ash tree portion of the program would continue annually, subject to available funding.
 - b. Prioritization: The Public Works Department will maintain a matrix and map outlining the priority of replacement for each location, based on the concentration of missing trees for each street (trees removed/mile) as well as the relative maturity of the trees that were removed (as measured during the Village's initial Ash Tree inventory).
 - i. Areas more void of trees receive some level of priority, along with other special conditions that would be assessed on a case-by-case basis, such as primary residential thoroughfares, historic districts, the maturity of the trees in the neighborhood removed, etc.
 - ii. The assigned priority level does not indicate a specific year for replacement, but rather an approximate sequence to help guide staff in programming the allotted plantings based on available funds.

- iii. The prioritization map shall be updated annually following each planting season and posted on the Village website so that residents can see where their streets fall in the overall program.
- c. Tree Species Selection: Selection of the species of tree to be planted shall be recommended by the Village's arborist and approved by the Director of Public Works, or his/her designee.
 - i. A preference will be placed on species that enhance the overall diversity of the Village's overall tree population.
 - ii. Preference to species native to northern Illinois might be given, depending on available parkway width, the types of other trees on the same block, and unit cost of the desired tree species.
 - iii. Popular species that already comprise a high percentage of the urban forest, such as maple trees, will not be included in the approved species list, except on a case-by-case basis (i.e., maples are not currently present in a specific zone).
 - iv. The approved species list will be reviewed and updated annually based upon seasonal availability, anticipated unit costs, and the current progress towards meeting diversity goals for the overall tree population.
- d. Program Selection: The locations for the trees to be planted each season (spring and/or fall) will be determined by the Director of Public Works, or his/her designee. Trees will be replanted in approximately the same locations as the ones previously removed by the Village, with some exceptions noted below.
- e. Exceptions: There are certain circumstances where a replacement tree will not be provided in the same location as the previous tree, or at all. These circumstances include, but not limited to:
 - i. Proximity to driveway aprons – minimum 10' clearance.
 - ii. Proximity to other trees – minimum 40' spacing between trees is desired.
 - iii. Narrow parkways – minimum 4' of pervious area between the pavement and sidewalk (or right-of-way line if no sidewalk is present); the width of parkway may also limit the number of species approved for that location.
 - iv. Utility conflicts – adequate clearance from existing overhead or underground utility lines is required, as determined by the Director of Public Works or the affected utility company.
 - v. Proximity to fire hydrants, water valves, or buffalo boxes – minimum 10' clearance.

- vi. Proximity to utility poles – minimum 15’ clearance.
 - vii. Proximity to traffic signs or signals – minimum 15’ clearance; the tree’s existing or future canopy and trunk shall not block motorists’ view of the traffic control device.
 - viii. Property owner preference – Requests by property owners to opt-out of the free replacement tree will be considered on a case-by-case basis, with an effort to accommodate them wherever practical.
- f. Notification: The property owners in the zones proposed to be included in each season’s tree replacement program will be notified in writing via door hanger or letter in advance of the bid.
- g. Procurement: Based on the allotted funds approved by the Village Board in each fiscal year, and the selection of the highest priority zones remaining in the program, staff will issue a request for bids for the supply and planting of parkway trees.
- h. Expedited Replacement: Property owners shall have the option to participate in an expedited replacement program if they desire to have a tree replaced with the next available planting cycle, as opposed to waiting under the prioritization schedule, or wish to select the species from the approved list.

Property owners would complete a form provided by the Village and would have the option of either:

- i. Having their own licensed contractor install a tree at 100% property owner cost (property owner’s choice of tree from that year’s approved list for their particular zone meeting the minimum specifications, subject to Village approval and permit); or
 - ii. Providing payment to the Village for 100% of the tree’s cost to have it bid and installed as part of that year’s annual program by the Village (tree species selected by the Village).
- i. Tracking: A database (spreadsheet and/or G.I.S. format) will be maintained by the Public Works Department with an inventory of trees planted under the program.
- j. Maintenance: Trees replaced under the program shall include a one-year warranty from the supplier/contractor.
- i. Watering: As needed by adjacent property owner. Watering bags might be provided for the year, depending on seasonal rainfall.

6. REFERENCES:

- a. Approved Parkway Tree Species List – to be maintained on the Village website
- b. Prioritization Map – to be maintained on the Village website
- c. Expedited Tree Replacement Request Form – to be maintained on the Village website

7. DEFINITIONS:

- a. Certified Arborist: An individual with current status as a *Certified Arborist* by the International Society of Arboriculture (ISA). The certified arborist may be a member of the Public Works staff or an outside contractor/consultant.
- b. EAB: Emerald Ash Borer

VILLAGE OF CARY

RESOLUTION NO. #R14-09-02

A RESOLUTION APPROVING THE TREE REPLACEMENT PROGRAM POLICY

ADOPTED BY THE MAYOR AND BOARD OF TRUSTEES
OF THE VILLAGE OF CARY THIS 16TH DAY OF SEPTEMBER, 2014.

Published in pamphlet form by
authority of the Mayor and
Board of Trustees of the Village
of Cary, McHenry County, Illinois
this 16th day of September, 2014.

RESOLUTION NO. #R14-09-02

A RESOLUTION APPROVING THE TREE REPLACEMENT PROGRAM POLICY

WHEREAS, the Village of Cary (Village) is a certified "Tree City USA" community; and

WHEREAS, the Village desires to continue enhancing the diversity of the parkway tree population through the careful placement of new trees in an effort to avoid future impacts similar to the level of devastation created by the Emerald Ash Borer; and

WHEREAS, the Village is in the process of removing all ash trees located within the public right-of-way or public property owned by the Village of Cary;

WHEREAS, a multi-year replacement program will be funded by the Village and replace the previous cost-sharing program; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Mayor and Board of Trustees of the Village of Cary as follows:

SECTION 1: The Village of Cary will enact the Tree Replacement Program Policy (see Attachment A), effective September 16, 2014.

SECTION 2: That the above recitals are incorporated as if fully set forth herein.

SECTION 3: If any part of this Resolution shall be invalid for any reason such finding shall not affect the validity of the remaining portion of this Resolution.

4: This Resolution shall be in full force and effect from and after its passage and approval according to law.

PASSED THIS 16TH DAY OF SEPTEMBER, 2014.

AYES: _____

NAYS: _____

ABSTAIN: _____

ABSENT: _____

APPROVED THIS 16TH DAY OF SEPTEMBER, 2014.



MAYOR

ATTEST:



VILLAGE CLERK