

SECTION 33: TREE PRESERVATION AND LANDSCAPE STANDARDS

Subd 1: Purpose

It is the policy of the City of Long Lake to recognize and preserve existing natural resources of the community, and to encourage the greening of the City. The City Council finds that the preservation of trees and other vegetation, where practicable, is in the best interest of City residents' health and welfare. To that end, the City Council has found it necessary and desirable to establish a policy to assist City residents and the City staff in preserving trees throughout the City.

Subd. 2: City Forester Duties

- A. The Forester, as appointed by the City Council, shall identify diseased and hazardous trees that threaten the health and safety of the public and coordinate all activities of the City relating to the control and prevention of tree diseases.

- B. The Forester shall promulgate and enforce, and all persons shall obey rules, regulations and specifications concerning the trimming, spraying, removal, planting, pruning and protection of trees, shrubs, vines, hedges and other plants upon the right-of-way of any street, alley, park or other City-owned property.

Subd. 3: Placement and Care of Trees on Public Property

- A. Placement. Trees along streets and boulevards as well as trees located upon City-owned property shall be planted no closer together than:
 - a. 30 feet for small trees;
 - b. 40 feet for medium trees;
 - c. 50 feet for large treesPlantings at less than the minimum spacing described in this section may be approved when planting to create a screen, size, variety and spacing.

- B. Utilities. Only small trees shall be allowed to be planted on city-owned property under or within 10 lateral feet of any overhead utility wire or within five lateral feet of any underground utility, water, or sewer line.

- C. Disturbance of Trees.
 - 1. No person shall trim, cut, prune or otherwise eliminate growth from any tree on public property without a permit. Trees severely damaged by storms or other causes, or certain trees located under utility wires or other obstructions were other pruning practices are

impractical may be exempted from this policy at the determination of the Forester.

2. No person shall plant, remove, cut above the ground, or disturb any tree on any street, park, or other city-owned property without first filing an application and producing a permit from the Forester.

Subd. 4: Acceptable Plant Types for Public and Private Property

- A. Minimum size requirements - All trees and shrubs used for new plantings or as replacement trees shall conform to the following minimum sizes:

Deciduous Trees - Three (3) inch caliper (trunk diameter at six (6) inches above soil level balled and burlapped
Ornamental Trees (small statured flowering trees) = One and one-half (1.5) inch caliper balled and burlapped
Coniferous Trees = Six (6) feet height
Shrubs = Twenty-Four (24) inch height or spread

- B. Prohibited Trees and Shrubs - The following trees and shrubs are prohibited within the City of Long Lake:

Cottonwood (except for cottonless cultivars)
Female ginkgo
Boxelder
American Elm (except for disease resistant varieties)
Silver Maple
Mulberry
Black Locust
Black Walnut (unless given adequate space)
Seeded varieties of Green Ash
Buckthorn
Seeded Ornamental Trees with fruit that is not persistent

Subd. 5: Landscape Requirements for Development and Redevelopment Plans

- A. Intent - The City of Long Lake seeks to protect their tree resources by formulating these standards for guiding development projects in tree protection and conservation of woodland areas. All contractors and sub-contractors are to be advised of tree protection standards by the developer or project manager. Owners, contractors, developers, builders, and applicants shall avoid damage to or

the destruction of significant trees when designing, locating, grading for and building improvements.

B. Tree Preservation Requirements - The Applicant shall submit a Preservation Plan if improvements are to be constructed on property containing significant Trees. The Preservation Plan shall be submitted along with other materials required for the approval.

- 1) Preservation Plan. A preservation plan for a proposed development or redevelopment project must be prepared by a Minnesota registered surveyor,, locating proposed improvements and all significant trees located on the project area, including an indication of which significant trees are to be preserved and which removed as a result of the construction of the improvements. Significant trees' diameters, heights and species shall be noted on the Preservation Plan.
- 2) Design Considerations. During the planning process, it is expected that all measures will be taken to protect significant trees and woodland areas on, or adjacent to, the parcel and that roads, utilities and structures will be sited to minimize the impact on trees and natural areas. Extensive clearing of undergrowth and/or disturbance of the ground litter layer should not occur in areas where trees are to be preserved.
- 3) If the applicant destroys or severely damaged trees which were required to be preserved under the Preservation Plan, the Applicant will be required to pay to the City of Long lake the sum of \$200.00 per diameter inch of such greater amount as may be determined by the City Council for each such destroyed or damaged tree. Alternately, the Forester may, in consultation with one other individual appointed by the City Administrator, agree to tree replanting equaling total caliper inches lost, species and quality, in lieu of a fine. Any such agreement shall specify the replacement tree(s) species and diameter. Applicant shall have the right to appeal the resulting fine or replanting requirements to the City Council.
- 4) The applicant's responsibility for the loss of trees on sites subject to a Preservation Plan shall cease once the site grading and construction have been completed, the preservation has been verified, or any penalty fees have been paid or approved, replacement trees have been planted, and their growth has been well established.
- 5) All monies collected pursuant to this policy shall be placed in the City's park fund.

C. Sodding and Ground Cover Requirements. All open areas of developed lots which are not devoted to buildings, patios, off street parking, loading and driving areas shall be landscaped with grass ground cover, shrubs or other ornamental

landscape material. With the exception of single family properties, all landscaping must be irrigated with an automatic sprinkler system.