

CITY OF CONCORD

In the year of our Lord, two thousand and fifteen

STREET TREE POLICY

It shall be the policy of the City of Concord to promote planting, preserving, and the proper care and maintenance of street trees – especially shade trees, where appropriate – and plantings within the City limits, enhancing the attractiveness and environmental health of the City, thereby promoting the general and economic well-being of the City.

The City of Concord shall:

1. Promote planting, preserving, and proper care and maintenance of street trees and plantings within the City streets and public rights-of-way:
 - a. Urban trees are a fragile public resource and may be damaged or destroyed through malicious, careless, or even well-intentioned actions.
 - b. Disease and pests pose an imminent threat. There is the potential to lose up to 20% of existing trees within the City rights-of-way, parks, and cemeteries.
 - c. This public resource may best be improved and protected by a program of comprehensive management and regulation of planting, maintenance, and removal, administered by trained professionals within municipal government.

For example, replace pest infested, invasive, and damaged street trees and plantings through attrition.

2. Strengthen Community Image:
 - a. Trees are an important element of the urban forest, including native or introduced non-invasive trees and related vegetation that grows along streets, in parks, around homes, in natural areas, and on other public and private properties.
 - b. Concord's public streets and sidewalks are the most viewed public areas within the City and provide a strong image for residents, visitors, or those passing through the community. Well-planned and maintained street trees can provide an element of beauty and comfort that will be strongly reflected in the community image.
 - c. A well-maintained urban canopy can help citizens enjoy and take pride in their community, as outlined below.
 - d. People tend to treat their surrounding environment as it appears. A clean, beautiful street is more likely to be well maintained by homeowners and passing pedestrians and drivers.

For example, promote Arbor Day activities and re-establish Tree City USA status for Concord to increase public awareness of street trees, develop a plan to maintain and replant street trees.

3. Encourage Pedestrian Activity:

- a. Street trees can provide shade, cover from weather, a barrier from traffic, and can both reduce noise and increase pedestrian safety.

For example, develop comfortable, shaded and landscaped pedestrian spaces to encourage pedestrian activity, provide space for public interaction, and attract people to adjacent businesses.

4. Enhance Livability:

- a. Trees provide energy savings through cooling/shade on buildings and reduction in wind speed.
- b. Trees create habitat for birds and small mammals.
- c. Trees typically increase property values.

For example, incorporate street trees into traffic calming measures, which will effectively slow the flow of traffic to appropriate speeds and improve community livability.

5. Provide Cleaner and Comfortable Environment:

- a. Trees play an important role in eliminating man-made pollutants from the environment. Ground water is cleaned and storm water quantities are significantly reduced by uptake into the trees and release of moisture through transpiration.
- b. Tree cover minimizes increases in temperature on lands, decreasing the heat island effect.

For example, plant shade trees in parking lots to treat stormwater runoff, mitigate the heat island effect, and create a more inviting shaded space for motorists and residents.

6. Increase Visual Interest:

- a. Trees and landscaping can be used to screen less attractive but necessary aspects of the community. Unsightly views of trash dumpsters, parking lots, and fences can be mitigated through tree planting and strategic landscaping.
- b. Visual interest is especially important in areas where there is heavy pedestrian traffic, or there is a desire to create a pedestrian friendly environment. Pedestrian interest is maintained by variety and detail in the surrounding environment.

For example, in keeping with the City Council's Complete Streets Policy, increase visual variety and complexity in pedestrian oriented environments by including street trees and landscaping, as was done on Route 3 North and Langley Parkway.

7. Enhance Buildings, Entryways, and Entrance Corridors:

- a. Trees and landscaping can help to enhance the visual appeal of vehicle and pedestrian entranceways to the downtown, commercial corridors, subdivisions, streets, and historical areas.
- b. Entranceways to Concord's downtowns could be greatly enhanced by additional trees and landscaping. Entries, as first impressions, contribute significantly to the image of a place or business.

For example, to generate a sense of welcome and arrival an entryway must focus one's attention, mark the change between that which is outside and inside, and suggest the positive experience to come. To strengthen an entry it is important to improve the approach, accent the threshold and connect the entry to the core.

8. Enhance Downtown Environment:

- a. Concord has two unique downtown cores, each with a significant number of interesting visual features, and each containing a unique architectural and historic character. Trees and landscaping also provide a number of benefits to pedestrians that can increase foot traffic and businesses in the downtown.

For example, street trees and landscaping can be used to highlight current features and to block undesirable views. Recent Main Street and Penacook Village improvements benefitted from including street trees and landscaping.

9. Develop Inviting Public and Pedestrian Spaces:

- a. People in urban settings are drawn to places with interesting and diverse visual displays, places that provide protection from the sun and rain and places that provide a sense of separation from noise and traffic.

For example, a simple planter strip or shade tree can transform a barren sidewalk into a pleasant, safe and comfortable place for pedestrian traffic. Other plantings and design techniques can be utilized to transform public spaces into a more inviting environment.

10. Utilize the best applicable standards and guidelines for tree care and plantings.

For example, create guidelines and Street Tree Standard Specifications, encourage species diversity, and create invasive species and pest infestation management plans.

11. Seek appropriate sources of funding, private partnerships, and grants to implement the components of this policy.

For example, consider creating a City nursery.

12. Monitor the success of this policy using performance measures such as tree survival and growth rates, property assessments, and pedestrian use.

13. Implement appropriate actions required to implement this policy.

STREET TREE POLICY ADDENDUM

Recommended Street Trees

Street tree species should be native or non-invasive species appropriate for an urban environment, soil conditions, and climate. Proposed trees species should be selected to encourage biological diversity and high wildlife habitat value. Trees not chosen from this list shall be approved by the City Representative before installation.

Shade Trees

Armstrong Maple (*Acer x freemanii* 'Armstrong')

*Red Maple varieties (*Acer rubrum*)

*Sugar Maple (*Acer saccharum*) 'Legacy', or other approved variety

Horsechestnut (*Aesculus carnea*), 'Fort McNair', or other approved variety

*American Hornbeam (*Carpinus caroliniana*)

Katsuratree (*Cercidiphyllum japonicum*)

Yellowwood (*Cladrastis kentukea*)

*American Beech (*Fagus grandifolia*)

Thornless Honey Locust (*Gleditsia triacanthos inermis*) 'Shademaster', 'Skyline', or 'Halka', or other approved variety - avoid 'Sunburst' variety

Kentucky Coffeetree (*Gymnocladus dioica*) 'Espresso' or other seedless varieties only

Sweetgum (*Liquidambar styraciflua*)

Tulip Tree (*Liriodendron tulipifera*)

Dawn redwood (*Metasequoia glyptostoboides*)

*Tupelo (*Nyssa sylvatica*)

*Sycamore (*Platanus occidentalis*) 'Liberty' or 'Bloodgood'

*Northern Red Oak (*Quercus rubra*)

*White Oak (*Quercus alba*)

Pin Oak (*Quercus palustris*)

*American Linden (*Tilia americana*)

*American Elm (*Ulmus americana*) 'Valley Forge', 'Princeton' or other DED resistant varieties only

Trees for under Utility Wires

Amur Maple (*Acer ginnala*), 'Flame' or 'Ruby Slipper', or other approved single stem variety

Paperbark Maple (*Acer griseum*)

*Serviceberry (*Amelanchier sp.*)

Eastern Redbud (*Cercis canadensis*)

Amur maackia (*Maackia amurensis*)

Sourwood (*Oxydendrum arboretum*)

Sargent Cherry (*Prunus sargentii*), 'Columnaris' or 'Pink Flair'

Canada Red Cherry (*Prunus virginiana*) 'Schubert'

Kwanzan Flowering Cherry (*Prunus serrulata*)

Japanese Lilac (*Syringa reticulata*)

*Native to the Northeast