



## Tree Planting

*Is a Tree Work Permit required to plant a tree?*

- A Tree Work Permit is required to plant any tree or woody plant originating within the public right of way (area located between the curb and the sidewalk) of any street, sidewalk, or alley, or upon other town-owned property within the town
  - A permit is required for all trees that are planted in the public right-of-way after the approved development landscape design plan.
- Tree Work Permits are **not** required to perform any work on trees located wholly on private properties.

Optimal tree planting dates are between March 15 - June 15 and September 1 – October 15.

All locations and spacing of trees planted in the public right of way shall be in accordance with the specifications and requirements set forth in the most recent version of the Town of Erie Standards and Specifications.

- A. General. All trees shall be placed a minimum of ten (10) feet from all buildings. When space is limited or a special design effect or function is desired, closer spacing can be allowed upon permission of the Parks & Recreation Director or designee.
- B. Near Fire Hydrants. No street trees shall be planted within ten (10) feet of any fire hydrant.
- C. Near Streets, Sidewalks, Alleys, or Curbs. Other than within tree lawns, no tree shall be planted within four (4) feet of any street, sidewalk, alley, or curb, except where authorized by the Parks & Recreation Director or designee. Coniferous trees shall be planted a minimum of six (6) feet away from hardscapes (sidewalks, trails, curbs, fences, walls, columns, parking lots, etc.). Fruit-bearing and thorny trees shall be placed a minimum of ten (10) feet away from parking lots, sidewalks and trails.
- D. Sight Triangles. Regardless of the presence of warning signs, no trees shall be planted within landscape beds or tree lawns located between a sidewalk or curb closer than 55' from the visibility triangle of an intersection unless authorized by the Parks & Recreation Director or designee.
- E. Near Utility Lines. No street trees, other than those species designated as ornamental/small trees in the Town of Erie Approved Tree List, shall be planted under or within ten (10) lateral feet of any overhead electrical, telephone or other utility wire or line, or over or within five (5) lateral feet of any underground water, sewer, electrical, telephone or other utility wire, line or main.
- F. Within Tree Grates: All placement considerations listed above, as well as planting and cultural practices listed within this section also apply to trees planted within tree grates. Trees grate design must be approved by the TOE Parks & Recreation Director or designee.
- G. Within Tree Lawns: All trees shall be centered within tree lawns unless approved otherwise by the Parks and Recreation Director.

All trees planted within the public right-of-way shall be one and one-half (1.5) inch caliper or larger. Caliper measurement shall be taken six (6) inches above the root flare if four (4) inches or less and twelve (12) inches above the root flare for larger tree sizes.

[Approved Tree List](#)



**There is a moratorium of planting any ash trees (*Fraxinus* spp.) on any Town-owned property due to the threat of Emerald Ash Borer.**

The following are not acceptable as street trees:

- Russian Olive - *Elaeagnus angustifolia*
- Tree-of-heaven – *Ailanthus altissima*
- Willow - *Salix* spp.
- Poplars (Cottonwood, Aspen, Lombardy) - *Populus* spp.
- Silver Maple - *Acer saccharinum*
- Boxelder – *Acer negundo*
- Evergreens (Pines, Spruce, Fir, Arborviate, Juniper, etc.) - *Pinus* spp., *Picea* spp., *Abies* spp., *Thuja* spp., *Juniperus* spp.
- Multi-Stemmed or Clump Forms
- Any weeping and pendulous trees
- Thorn-bearing trees