

Supplemental Environmental Regulations

Definitions – delete

TRUNK DIAMETER

The diameter of a tree measured at four feet above the ground.

C. Trees

1. The Village of Cooperstown recognizes the role that trees play in the Village ecosystem and that they contribute to the quality of air, reduce noise and visual pollution, help to moderate climatic extremes, stabilize soil, conserve energy used for cooling, and enhance property values and the general quality of life in the Village. Mature healthy trees of non-invasive species on private property shall be preserved and maintained.
2. Immature or small trees:
 - a. A tree with a trunk diameter of less than six (6) inches measured at four (4) feet above the ground may be removed without prior review.
 - b. This provision shall not apply to trees that have been planted as required in this section to replace existing mature trees, except in cases of where the replacement tree has died or become diseased.
3. Invasive species:
 - a. Amur Cork, Sycamore Maple, Japanese Angelica, and Norway Maple trees may be removed upon written notification to the Zoning Enforcement Officer by the property owner.
 - b. This provision also applies to other trees species that may be added to the list of New York State Prohibited and Regulated Invasive Plants.
4. Hazardous trees:
 - a. Private property owners have the duty, at their own expense, to remove any tree or portion of a tree on their property which is dead, harbors insects or disease, or which otherwise threatens public health, safety, or welfare including causing damage to property.
 - b. The Village Tree Committee may recommend to a private property owner that a tree or part of a tree be removed if the tree or tree part:
 - (1) Poses a potential public safety risk or hazard;
 - (2) Causes an unsafe condition;
 - (3) Is potentially injurious to sewers, electric power lines, waterlines or other public improvements; or
 - (4) Is infected with any injurious fungus, insect, or pest.
 - c. Written authorization from the Zoning Enforcement Officer is required for the removal of a hazardous tree except in cases of imminent danger, in which case the Zoning Enforcement Officer must be notified within two (2) business days of removal.

d. The Zoning Enforcement Officer may request documentation from the property owner provided by a certified arborist or forester or other tree professional of the condition of any hazardous tree.

5. Healthy, non-invasive, mature trees:

a. A healthy tree of a non-invasive species with a trunk diameter of six (6) inches or more measured at four (4) feet above the ground may not be removed unless a replacement tree of a minimum 1.5 inch caliper is planted as a replacement on the same parcel. Replanting shall be undertaken on a one-to-one basis within six months of removal. Removal and replacement, documented on a plan showing the location of both trees, must be reviewed and approved by the Zoning Enforcement Officer.

b. On a showing of good cause, the Planning Board may permit payment designated for trees and deposited in the Village of Cooperstown Trust and Agency Fund in lieu of planting a replacement tree, according to a cost schedule established by the Board of Trustees. Such fees shall be based on the actual costs associated with purchasing, planting, and maintaining the Village's street trees. Payment must be made prior to issuance of the permit for trees removal.

c. This provision shall not apply to tree removal that is part of a project requiring Site Development Plan Review, in which case the removal of trees must be reviewed by the Planning Board according to the objectives for Site Development Plan Review and replacement may not be required.