

 Holly Springs, N.C.	P-39	
	Street Tree Maintenance and Enforcement	
Policy & Procedure Statements of the Holly Springs Town Council	Prepared By:	Laura Holloman
	Department:	Planning & Zoning
	Date Approved by Board:	Sept. 18, 2012
	Effective Date:	Sept. 18, 2012
	Supersedes Old #:	N/A
	Old Effective Date:	N/A

POLICY PURPOSE:

Street trees are needed within communities in order to absorb carbon dioxide; provide cooling through shade; reduce glare and noise; and to contribute to the natural beauty and aesthetics of the community.

Street trees are trees that are located within or adjacent to the right-of-way of residential lots within Holly Springs subdivisions. The requirements in this policy establish clear, efficient requirements necessary for the continued maintenance of those street trees.

SCOPE/COVERAGE:

This policy shall apply to both existing street trees as well as any new street trees installed after the effective date of this policy statement.

POLICY STATEMENT:

The following are requirements and performance criteria set by the Town Council for the Street Tree Maintenance Program:

Street Tree Maintenance:

1. Street Tree maintenance is critical for both pedestrian as well as vehicular safety. In order to ensure clear sidewalks for pedestrians and, to maintain adequate access for service vehicles along adjacent roadways, trees shall be limbed so that at maturity a clearance of 13-15 feet is achieved as necessary. In addition, trees shall be maintained at all times so as to never interfere with adequate sight distance as specified in the *Town of Holly Springs Engineering Design & Construction Standards*. Attention must also be given to ensure such trees do not interfere with adjacent street lighting.

2. The property owner is required to maintain any street tree that is planted on private property. The property owner is encouraged to perform general maintenance of street trees located in the public right-of-way adjacent to their property, if they choose to do so, to control the aesthetic quality and appearance of the pruning and/or trimming of the street tree adjacent to their property. The Town when made aware of the need to do so will use its best efforts to perform necessary functional pruning and trimming of street trees to allow for functional use of the adjacent roadways, sidewalks, street lights. Visibility of traffic control street signage and vision clearance triangles at

intersections is required in accordance with the Town of Holly Springs Engineering Design & Construction Standards at the Town's expense.

3. General maintenance performed on street trees within subdivisions by the property owner does not require permission from the Town, unless drastic action to the tree(s) is planned. Drastic action shall be defined as removing or topping a tree. Tree topping is not an acceptable practice and shall be prohibited on any street tree.
4. If the Town is aware of a street tree in need of immediate maintenance because of safety or service vehicle access problems, written notice will be given to the property owner in the form of a door hanger as well as certified mail that the Town will be completing the necessary maintenance work on the tree in the next fourteen (14) days to allow the homeowner the opportunity to trim the tree as specified in #2 above.
5. The Public Works Department will provide all property owners within the subdivision fourteen (14) days' notice that crews will be evaluating street trees within the neighborhood. If it is determined that there are street trees requiring maintenance attention, the property owner shall have fourteen (14) calendar days to rectify the problem, if they choose to do so. The property owner may request a one-time extension of fourteen (14) days by written request to the Public Works Department, so long as they can demonstrate that the maintenance has been scheduled and will be performed within the fourteen (14) day extension period.
6. The Town shall budget in an amount deemed appropriate by manager as necessary to implement a maintenance program to be performed by a certified arborist.

Street Tree Removal

1. Street trees shall only be removed when they pose a danger to people or property or they are in poor health or dead.
2. Such trees may be replaced at the property owner's expense in the next available growing season and must be the correct species and size that was originally approved with the subdivision where such tree is located. It shall be the property owner's responsibility to verify with the Department of Planning & Zoning, the correct tree species and size that is required for their location.
3. If the property owner installs the incorrect specimen and size for the replacement tree, they will receive written notice from the Department of Planning & Zoning of the error and will be given thirty (30) calendar days to correct the problem.
4. Where a resident or property owner requests the removal of a tree which is considered to be a good healthy specimen, it will be the responsibility of the resident or property owner to place the request in writing to the Department of Planning & Zoning and it will be considered only in cases of potential dangers to public safety and welfare.

5. Street Trees that are fatally damaged through a natural occurrence such as a significant storm event may be replaced at the property owner's expense in the next available growing season and must be the correct species and size that was originally approved for that location.

End of Policy Statement No. P-39

I, Joni Powell, Town Clerk of the Town of Holly Springs, certify that this policy statement was adopted by the Holly Springs Town Council on September 18, 2012 following a motion by Councilman Sack a second by Councilwoman Williams and a carrying vote of 5 to 0.



Joni Powell, MMC
Town Clerk

