

POLICY TITLE: Village of Howard Tree Preservation Policy

POLICY STATEMENT:

It is the policy of the Village of Howard to recognize, protect and preserve existing natural resources of the community. Preservation of trees is a public benefit and desirable for the health, safety, welfare and prosperity of the people. Trees protect privacy, provide enhancement of property values, and beautify the Village. Our direction is to add to the tree population and to maintain, to the greatest extent possible, the existing trees within the Village.

The Tree Board encourages preservation of desirable trees during building construction, and replacement or planting of new trees after land development and building construction is completed. Our mission is to preserve and enhance the quality of life in Howard through prudent management of natural resources. It is essential for all residents and developers to be aware and understand the importance of urban trees and the value of wise management. Urban trees should be viewed as a vital component of the community infrastructure and preserved whenever possible. We are attempting to preserve existing urban trees in our community through education, recognition, technical assistance, and on-site consultation. It is our intent to accomplish the following objectives:

- A) To preserve trees as an important public resource enhancing the quality of life and the general welfare of the Village, and enhancing its unique character, physical, historical, and esthetic environment.
- B) To preserve the essential character of those areas throughout the community which are heavily wooded and in a more natural state.
- C) To enhance and preserve air quality through the filtering effect of trees on air pollutants.
- D) To reduce noise through the baffle and barrier effect of trees on the spread of noise.
- E) To reduce topsoil erosion through the soil retention effect of tree roots.
- F) To reduce energy consumption through the wind break and shade effects of trees.
- G) To preserve and enhance nesting areas for birds and other wildlife which in turn assist in the control of insects.
- H) To reduce storm water runoff, the costs associated therewith, and to replenish ground water supplies.
- I) To protect and increase property values

Construction Guidelines

It is the policy of the Village of Howard to recognize and preserve existing natural resources of the community. The Tree Board developed this policy to give direction and guidance on the preservation of trees on development sites. The following action should be taken to ensure that trees within the grading limits are protected from construction damage.

LANDSCAPE PLAN

- A It is desirable to have a landscape plan and tree inventory.
- B Establish area of tree preservation.

GRADING

- A Install a protective fence/barrier at the root zone (5' outside the tree drip line).
- B Allow no encroachment or trenching within the protected zone.
- B Allow no equipment, material or fill within the protected zone..

CONSTRUCTION SITE

- A Building and construction activities are to be limited to the smallest possible area of a lot.
- B All vehicle traffic should be restricted to the same route.
- B All stock piled material shall not be within the drip line of trees.

TREE REPLACEMENT

- A Replace trees that are lost due to damage, or anticipated to be lost as the result of land alteration after all construction is complete.

WHERE TO GO FOR HELP

Local Assistance

The Village employs a Forester, from May to September, who can evaluate plans, visit construction sites and offer advice on how to assure tree survival during construction. Between September and May a volunteer from the Tree Board is available for assistance.

Park & Recreation Video Library

Avoidance Of Construction Damage To Trees On Wooded Lots

International Society of Arboriculture Research Trust, 22:30 min

Construction Damage To Trees In Wooded Lots

International Society of Arboriculture, 13:55 min

Technical Assistance

For more information on trees please contact the Howard Park & Recreation Department, 2456 Glendale Ave., (414) 434-4640, Brown County UW-Extension Office, or write to the National Arbor Day Foundation, 100 Arbor Avenue, Nebraska City, NE 68410.

Acknowledged this ____ day of _____, 2008.

Village Administrator

Executive Director