

**CITY OF EDGERTON
CITY HALL
12 ALBION STREET
EDGERTON, WI**

TREE BOARD

Monday, February 26, 2018 at 6:00 p.m.

1. Call to order; Roll Call.
2. Confirmation of Appropriate Meeting Notice Posted on Friday, February 23, 2018.
3. Introductions and elect Chair.
4. Discuss committee objectives.
5. Discuss current tree ordinances, practices and funding.
6. Discuss Tree City USA application.
7. Discuss possible projects.
8. Set next meeting and agenda items.
9. Adjourn.

cc: All Commission Members
Department Heads

City Administrator
City Engineer

All Council Members
Newspapers

NOTICE: If a person with a disability requires that the meeting be accessible or that materials at the meeting be in an accessible format, call the City Administrator's office at least 6 hours prior to the meeting to request adequate accommodations. Telephone: 884-3341

"Notice is hereby given that a majority of the Common Council is expected to be present at the above scheduled noticed meeting to gather information about a subject over which they have decision-making responsibility. The only action to be taken at this meeting will be action by the Public Works Committee."

Memo

To: Tree Board
From: Staff
Date: 2/20/2018
Re: February 26, 2018 Meeting

Board Objectives: Below are some example mission statements from tree boards from around the country. After reviewing these examples (and any others you may come across) the board should discuss creating a mission statement for the City's tree board at a future meeting:

The Municipal Tree Board shall be responsible to study, investigate, develop, update annually, and oversee the administration of a written plan for the care, preservation, pruning, planting, replanting, removal or disposition of trees and shrubs in parks, trails, along streets, and in other public areas.

To ensure that { } "Urban Forest" as part of the city's infrastructure is properly managed, maintained, and nurtured in recognition of its importance to our community economically, environmentally, socially, aesthetically, and historically. To build collaborative working relationships to properly preserve and protect this essential and fragile part of { } ecosystem.

To oversee and positively influence the urban forest of the City of { }.

There is established the urban forestry tree committee to advise and make recommendations to the park board and city council regarding managing, conserving and enhancing the trees and shrubs located in the street right-of-way and in the parks and public areas of the City, and assisting property owners and public agencies.

Current Ordinances: Regulations regarding public trees are generally found in the *Streets Chapter* of the Code of Ordinances. (See attached) The City recently added a requirement that street trees be planted in the terraces of new residential subdivisions.

The notable ordinance provisions for trees on public land (which includes trees along streets) are:

- No person can do anything to a public tree without the permission of the Public Works Director;
- No person can interfere with the Public Works Director's work on public trees;
- A permit is required to plant a tree on public property;
- Tree planting specifications are provided (location and type);
- The City will trim public trees so they are at least 9 feet above a sidewalk and 14 feet above a street. (Other sections of the ordinance also require property owners with trees on private property to trim trees over streets and sidewalks to these standards.)
- The ordinance does allow a property owner to request the removal of a healthy public tree at their cost. A permit from the Director of Public Works is required.

The ordinance does not include the following:

- A purpose statement of tree regulations.
- Regulations for a tree board (terms, members, etc.)
- Prohibition of topping of private trees
- Requirements for trimming of trees for street lights
- Requirements for the removal of dangerous trees from private property
- Requirement for stump removal

The board should consider directing staff to prepare an ordinance amendment to cover the missing ordinance provisions.

Current Funding: The 2018 City budget includes \$3,000 annually for tree replacement. Based on past costs, this funding could provide for approximately 23 trees. For 2018, the City has \$4,878 available for tree purchases (\$1,878 carry over from 2017). The City also budgets \$6,000 annually for treatment against the Emerald Ash Borer and for stump grinding. The DPW staff prunes and removes most trees on public land that need to be removed through its operating budgets. The City pays a contractor to prune the downtown trees.

Tree City USA: Becoming a Tree City USA is source of pride in a community and it may also give better opportunities for grant funding. The Tree City program itself does not provide funding. Included in your packet are the standards for becoming a Tree City. At future meetings, the Board can determine if there is interest in being a Tree City.

Possible Projects: The Board will spend many upcoming meetings discussing possible projects and setting policies for trees. One project that has potential is from the Edgerton Rotary Club. The Club has expressed interest in funding the installation of trees around the baseball fields at Racetrack Park. A tree lined entrance road and a circle of trees around the ballfields would make an impressive statement in the park. If the Board is interested in working with the Rotary on this project, the Board should discuss the possibility of having a professional create a planting plan to ensure that the correct trees and locations are specified.

10.19 STREET AND PUBLIC TREES.

(1) **DEFINITION.** Any **tree** that has been or will be planted in the terrace along any public street, public alley, or public place, and in accordance with the provisions of the section.

(2) **INJURY TO PUBLIC TREES.** No person, without a written permit from the Director of Public Works, shall plant, cut, prune, break, climb, injure, or remove any **tree**, plant, or shrub growing in a public highway, public alley, or public place, or cut, disturb, or interfere in any way with the roots of any **tree**, plant, or shrub on a public highway, public alley, or public place; or spray with any chemical or insecticide any **tree**, plant, or shrub in a public highway, public alley, public place; or place any rope, sign, poster, or other fixture on a **tree** in a public highway, public alley, or public place; or injure, misuse, or remove any device placed to protect such **tree**, plant or shrub on a public highway, public alley, or public place.

(3) **INTERFERENCE WITH DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS ORDERS.** No person shall delay or interfere with the Director in planting, pruning, spraying, or removing of **trees** or shrubs living or dead, in that part of any street lying between the lot line and the curb line or in the center of side plots of boulevards in the City, or from removing stone, cement, lumber, or other substance placed against a **tree** or shrub in any public place in said City.

(4) **TREE PLANTING PERMIT REQUIRED.** No person shall plant any **tree** upon any street lying between the lot line and the curb line without first securing a written permit from the Director and such permit, if issued, shall be subject to the following conditions and restrictions:

(a) No **trees** shall be planted on any City street until the grade of such street has been established and cut or filled to the established grade.

(b) No **tree** shall be planted on a street where the width of the terrace between the walk and the curb line is less than 8 feet unless approved by the Public Works Director.

(c) No **tree** shall be planted closer than 10 feet from an intersecting street line.

(d) All **trees** shall be placed at least 30 feet apart on lots with a frontage of less than 70 feet and not less than 35 feet apart on all other lots.

(e) Where **trees** are permitted between walk and curb, all **trees** will be placed 4 feet from the outside edge of walk.

(f) The following shall not be planted in the streets and alleys of the City:

1. No elm of any type until such time as one immune to Dutch Elm Disease has been developed.
2. No box elder.
3. No nut **tree**.
4. No willow, cottonwood, poplar, catalpa, or native honey locust.

5. No shrubs of any kind.

(g) It is prohibited to plant **trees** that reach a maximum, mature height or greater than 18 feet under any overhead electric wires.

1. The Director of Public Works shall maintain a list of appropriate **trees** that are permitted to be planted under overhead electric wires.

(5) **TRIMMING OF STREET TREES.** All **trees** planted in accordance with the provisions of this section upon any public street, public alley, or public place shall be trimmed, pruned, or removed in accordance with the standards in this section by the Department of Public Works or a **tree** expert hired by the City to do so. The City is not obligated to trim street **trees** if they comply with the following standards:

(a) Branches over streets and alleys will be kept at 14 feet or above clearance height.

(b) Branches over sidewalks will be kept at 9 feet or above clearance height.

(6) **REMOVAL OF DANGEROUS TREES.** The City shall remove all dead and dangerous **trees** and may replace the same with approved varieties where they can be planted in compliance with the regulations hereby established.

(7) **LARGER TREES.** Whenever the City decides to replace a **tree** under subsection (6) above, the owner or occupant of the lot or parcel or real estate upon which said **tree** or **trees** are to be planted may make application to the Director for a permit to plant a larger **tree** or other approved variety than the City proposes to plant.

(8) **REMOVAL OF TREES AT EXPENSE OF PROPERTY OWNER.** Should any property owner desire to have a street **tree** removed other than a dead, dangerous, or undesirable variety, it shall be removed by a **tree** expert or by an agent of the City at the expense of the property owner, and then, only after written permission for said removal has been obtained from the Director of Public Works.

(9) **PENALTY.** The penalty provision of subsection 10.24 shall apply to any violation of ordinance.

Mobile Version



Tree City USA Standards

To qualify as a Tree City USA community, you must meet four standards established by the Arbor Day Foundation and the National Association of State Foresters. These standards were established to ensure that every qualifying community* would have a viable tree management program and that no community would be excluded because of size.

Four Standards for Tree City USA Recognition

[Standard 1](#) | [Standard 2](#) | [Standard 3](#) | [Standard 4](#)

Standard 1

A Tree Board or Department

Someone must be legally responsible for the care of all trees on city- or town-owned property. By delegating tree care decisions to a professional forester, arborist, city department, citizen-led tree board or some combination, city leaders determine who will perform necessary tree work. The public will also know who is accountable for decisions that impact community trees. Often, both professional staff and an advisory tree board are established, which is a good goal for most communities.

The formation of a tree board often stems from a group of citizens. In some cases a mayor or city officials have started the process. Either way, the benefits are immense. Involving residents and business owners creates wide awareness of what trees do for the community and provides broad support for better tree care.

Standard 2

A Tree Care Ordinance

A key section of a qualifying ordinance is one that establishes the tree board or forestry department—or both—and gives one of them the responsibility for public tree care (as reflected in Standard 1). It should also assign the task of crafting and implementing a plan of work or for documenting annual tree care activities.

Ideally, the ordinance will also provide clear guidance for planting, maintaining and removing trees from streets, parks and other public spaces as well as activities that are required or prohibited. Beyond that, the ordinance should be flexible enough to fit the needs and circumstances of the particular community.

For tips and a checklist of important items to consider in writing or improving a tree ordinance, see *Tree City USA Bulletin #9*.

Standard 3

A Community Forestry Program With an Annual Budget of at Least \$2 Per Capita

City trees provide many benefits—clean air, clean water, shade and beauty to name a few—but they also require an investment to remain healthy and sustainable. By providing support at or above the \$2 per capita minimum, a community demonstrates its commitment to grow and tend these valuable public assets. Budgets and expenditures require planning and accountability, which are fundamental to the long-term health of the tree canopy and the Tree City USA program.

To meet this standard each year, the community must document at least \$2 per capita toward the planting, care and removal of city trees—and the planning efforts to make those things happen. At first this may seem like an impossible barrier to some communities. However, a little investigation usually reveals that more than this amount is already being spent on tree care. If not, this may signal serious neglect that will cost far more in the long run. In such a case, working toward Tree City USA recognition can be used to reexamine the community's budget priorities and redirect funds to properly care for its tree resources before it is too late.

An Arbor Day Observance and Proclamation

An effective program for community trees would not be complete without an annual Arbor Day ceremony. Citizens join together to celebrate the benefits of community trees and the work accomplished to plant and maintain them. By passing and reciting an official Arbor Day proclamation, public officials demonstrate their support for the community tree program and complete the requirements for becoming a Tree City USA!

This is the least challenging—and probably most enjoyable—standard to meet. An Arbor Day celebration can be simple and brief or an all-day or all-week observation. It can include a tree planting event, tree care activities or an award ceremony that honors leading tree planters. For children, Arbor Day may be their only exposure to the green world or a springboard to discussions about the complex issue of environmental quality.

The benefits of Arbor Day go far beyond the shade and beauty of new trees for the next generation. Arbor Day is a golden opportunity for publicity and to educate homeowners about proper tree care. Utility companies can join in to promote planting small trees beneath power lines or being careful when digging. Fire prevention messaging can also be worked into the event, as can conservation education about soil erosion or the need to protect wildlife habitat.

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Tree City USA is an Arbor Day Foundation program in cooperation with:

