

East Bradford Township

Tree Maintenance and Removal Policy

East Bradford Township is a densely wooded community with both privately owned trees and Township owned trees within the right of way/right of passage easement area. The following is the policy and procedures for the maintenance and potential removal of such trees:

Types of Tree Maintenance or Removal Responsibilities

Local Roads Owned by Township (no HOA) – maintenance or removal when authorized is the responsibility of the adjacent property owner.

Local Roads Owned by Township (with HOA) – maintenance or removal when authorized is the responsibility of the adjacent property owner or the HOA. Consult the HOA Declaration/Open Space Management Plan for further details.

Local Roads Owned by the Property Owner with Township Right of Passage in Easement – maintenance or removal when authorized is the responsibility of the property owner.

Private Roads with Township Access Easement (no HOA, no resident access agreement) – maintenance or removal where authorized is the responsibility of the property owner.

Private Roads with Township Access Easement (with HOA or resident access agreement) – maintenance or removal where authorized is the responsibility of the property owner or the HOA. Consult the HOA Declaration/Open Space Management Plan for further details.

Collector Roads Owned by Township – maintenance or removal is the responsibility of the Township.

Collector Roads Owned by the Property Owner with Township Right of Passage in Easement – maintenance where authorized is the responsibility of the property owner.

Township parks, open space and trails-maintenance is the responsibility of the Township.

PADOT Roads-maintenance and ownership is the responsibility of the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation.

Maintenance

Pruning and Trimming – The party responsible for maintenance shall assume reasonable care and maintenance of all trees within the right of way, whether privately owned or owned by the municipality. Such care shall include, but is not limited to, routine pruning to a minimum height of 15 feet above and 6 feet beyond the travel lane, routine removal of all dead, decayed, diseased, and insect infested wood that may be a hazard to passing motorists or the general public. Trees in the right of way which have PECO facilities may be trimmed by their contractors but it is not to be assumed that all rights of way will be maintained by the utility.

Removal

Proposed Removal – The property owner shall contact the Township for permission to remove a tree within the right-of-way area prior to beginning any removal process. The Township may require the owner to consult with and receive documentation from an ISA Certified Arborist prior to removal of any tree unless deemed an emergency, immediate hazard, and/or is the result of storm damage as determined by the Township. All Codes and Ordinances pertaining to tree removal shall be followed regardless of the reason for removal. It has been an ongoing policy of the township to review with PECO any proposed tree removal in the rights of way.

Definitions:

Collector Road-A roadway designed to serve from 1,000 to 10,000 vehicles per day.

Emergency (re: Hazardous Tree)-A reported situation that represents an immediate or imminent risk to the public health and safety and/or property.

Hazardous Tree- A tree which based upon determination of authorized Township Officials (or designated consultants) that the condition of a tree represents a credible danger to the public.

Local Road-A roadway designed to carry less than 1,000 vehicles per day.

Scenic Road- A mapped road or portion of road deemed by the township to have scenic qualities and deserving an elevated degree of protection. Scenic roads are posted on a Township map and can be referenced on the maps section of the Township website www.eastbradford.org .

Specimen Tree-Any healthy tree with a trunk diameter of 36 inches or greater dbh (diameter at breast height).

Travel Lane-the area of the paved portion of the roadway from the center line of the roadway to the painted white edge line, or in cases where the edge of the road is not delineated with a white line, the edge of the roadway asphalt pavement.

William Penn Tree-Any tree with a trunk diameter of five feet or greater, measured 4.5 feet above grade, particularly any tree that was alive when William Penn arrived on the banks of the Delaware River, or planted during his lifetime.

If a property owner is unsure of the classification of their road or has questions about the policy, they are encouraged to contact the Codes Enforcement Officer, Brenden Beaumont at (610)-436-5108 or bbeaumont@eastbradford.org .

Tree Maintenance and Removal Policy Adopted by the Board of Supervisors, May 12, 2015, Resolution # 11 of 2015.