

# Town of West Seneca

## Tree Ordinance



June 1, 2015

# Why does the tree ordinance need to be updated?

- The current tree ordinance is outdated.
- Adjacent towns have adopted modern standards.
- Sets the goal of no net loss after development.



Town residents have expressed concern about the clear – cutting of lots for development.



# What is different about the new tree ordinance?

- In development over 1 acre, an ISA Board Certified Arborist must be consulted and a tree plan must be presented to the Planning Board before site work may begin. The Environmental Commission will be consulted on an advisory basis.
- A tree inventory must be taken as part of the planning approval process.
- This tree ordinance applies to all development – public and private.

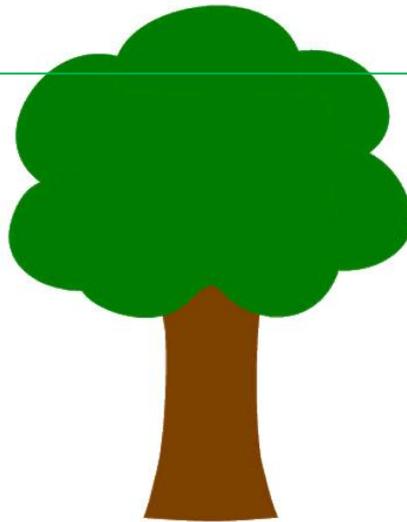


# How will this work?

- The diameter of a tree is to be measured at a point 4.5 feet above the ground. This is known as *dbh*, or “diameter at breast height”.
- The intent is to preserve trees over 4 inches in diameter at 4-1/2 feet high.
- A tree survey and a re-planting map must be presented as part of the planning process.

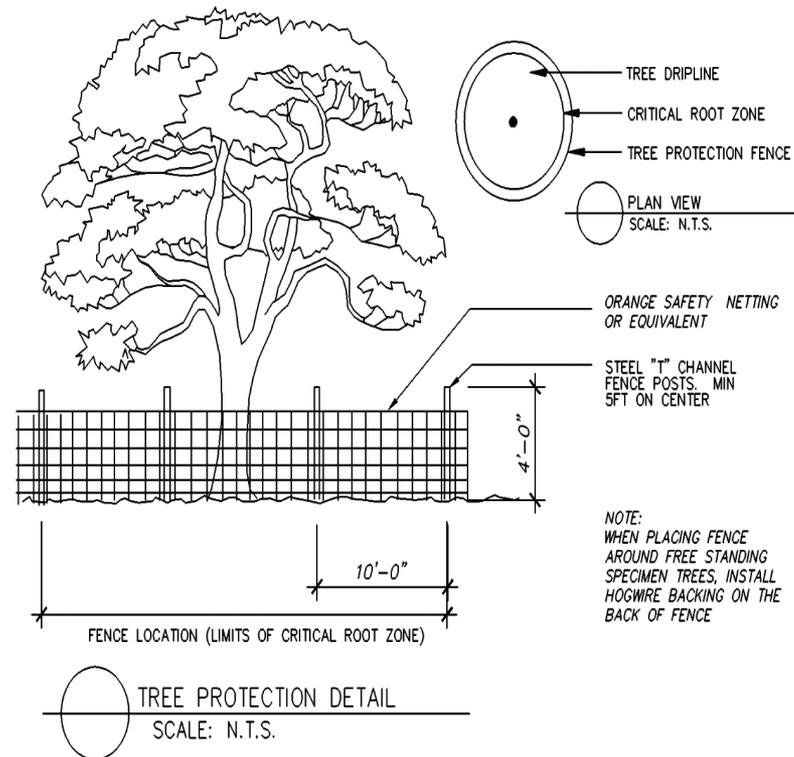


If a tree cannot be saved or a replacement cannot be made on-site, a mitigation plan or financial agreement for the replacement elsewhere in the Town must be provided during the planning phase.



# Best Practices

Tree protection fencing, known as a “canopy perimeter”, will be required to protect the root system on existing trees.



# Adoption of the new tree ordinance will:



Help to preserve trees for the future.

Preservation will maintain or increase property values.  
The Real Estate industry provides guidance on the value of property containing mature trees.

The value is estimated to be greater than \$20,000 per mature tree.



STORMWATER  
RUNOFF  
REDUCTION

**\$11,650**



PROPERTY  
VALUE  
INCREASE

**\$21,419**

**\$52,797**

per year

TOTAL BENEFITS



CO<sub>2</sub> REDUCTION

**\$1,929**



AIR QUALITY  
IMPROVEMENT

**\$2,238**



ENERGY SAVINGS

**\$15,561**

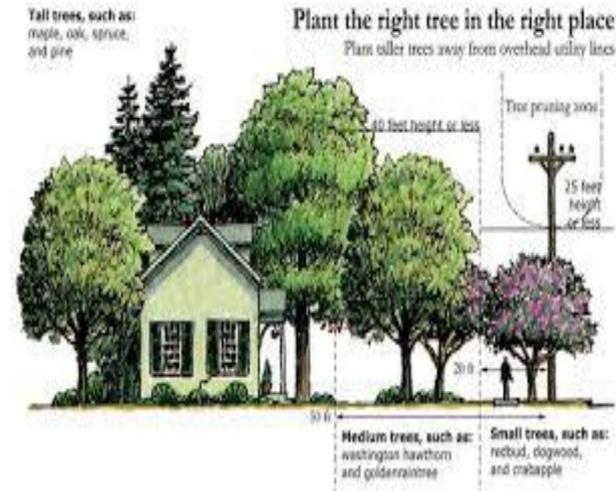
26%	Green Ash
19%	Norway Maple
9%	Freeman Maple Cultivar
8%	White Ash
7%	Littleleaf Linden

Top 5  
Street Tree  
Species



# Adoption of the new tree ordinance will:

- Improve the diversity of trees in the Town – native species to be required.
- New ordinance provides a more cohesive planning policy regarding trees.



# Challenges

1. Compliance
2. Enforcement of the code



# In conclusion

- The new tree ordinance is a positive addition to the Town Code.
- Increases the financial value and the aesthetic quality of the property.
- Updated code is beneficial for quality-of-life - it also provides habitat for wildlife and birds.

