

HOA Tree Maintenance

Good afternoon,

This email serves as a gentle reminder that any residential development approved between 1991 and now, is required to maintain all street trees listed on their approved subdivision or condominium site plan as well as trees planted in buffer/common areas (i.e. parks, street islands). Street trees are located along the street, usually between the street and the sidewalk. Unfortunately, over the years, many of these trees have either died or been removed. Depending on the requirements in the development documents, it is the responsibility of the HOA or the adjacent homeowner to maintain/replace these trees.

**** Please note, if your development was approved prior to 1991, you may have street tree requirements prescribed in your Master Deed, Bylaws, or Covenants, Conditions, and Restrictions. ****

We realize many HOA board members are volunteers and may not be aware of this requirement, which is why we're sending this communication. Canton's Planning Services Division would be happy to provide HOAs with a copy of their approved site plan showing the required plantings. Planning Services Division staff can also provide guidance on appropriate species to replant.

Over the last few years, Canton has been removing and replacing trees on Township property and along the right-of-way on many major roads. Canton hired a contractor to remove these trees because they are either dead, dying, or in severe decline. If your HOA has 25 or more trees to replace and would like to work with Canton's contractor, we can work with you and our contractor to give you Canton's same rate.

For HOAs wishing to hire their own contractor, please make sure to avoid any "volcano" mulching around new trees. Volcano mulching, also known as pyramid mulch or mountain mulch, is the practice of piling mulch around the base of a tree in a way that resembles a volcano. This leads to stressed and dying roots which in turn stresses the tree. A stressed tree has less defenses than its properly-mulched counterpart, leading to disease susceptibility.

For questions or to request a copy of your approved site plan, please email Zachary Michels at zachary.michels@cantonmi.gov.

We thank you in advance for your cooperation.



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