

BOARD POLICY

EFFECTIVE DATE

POLICY NUMBER

September 16, 1996

#BP-226

**BOARD OF INGHAM
COUNTY ROAD
COMMISSIONERS**

**PREPARING
DEPARTMENT
Engineering**

SUPERSEDES #

RESOLUTION #216-96

SUBJECT:

TREE PLANTING POLICY – RULES FOR PLAT STREET DEVELOPMENT

The Board approved the following tree planting policy as part of the Ingham County Road Commission's Rules for Plat Street Development:

Current Policy, Page 24. N. Trees.

1. Tree Planting Standards:

Any new trees being planted must be a minimum of 15 feet behind the curb.

2. Existing Tree Standards:

The above shall also apply to existing trees except when, in the opinion of the County Engineer, a deciduous tree is of significant aesthetic value and not closer than five feet behind the curb.

Proposed Amendment to the Rules for Plat Street Development.

N. Trees 1. Tree Planting Standards:

- a. Any new trees being planted must be a minimum of 15 feet behind the near curb or 19 feet from the nearest edge of the pavement if there is no curb.
- b. The limitations set forth in "a" above, may be waived by the Board in its discretion, consistent with the requirements set forth in this subsection "b". Waivers of the requirements in subsection "a" above may occur for plats in townships that have either a forestry

department that maintains trees in road rights of way or that have adopted an ordinance which requires the adjacent property owner to maintain trees within the road right of way. The determination of the existence of an acceptable township ordinance or forestry department and the determination to grant a waiver of the requirements set forth in subsection "a" above shall be made by the Board in the reasonable exercise of its discretion. If the requirements of subsection "a" are waived, the following requirements apply:

- (1) The number of trees allowed to be planted shall be based on the size of the lot and at locations that will not conflict with intersection sight distance, traffic control signs or devices, driveways, hydrants, street lights, sidewalks and other utility locations. The location selected should promote the full development of the species planted without overcrowding. The minimum spacing between trees shall be 50 feet and not closer than 25 feet to the side lot line.
- (2) No tree shall be planted closer than 25 feet to the intersection of two cross roads, measured from the point of intersecting curb lines or the edge of the pavement if there is no curb.
- (3) Approved species of deciduous trees (see list in (7)), may be planted no closer than 5 feet behind the curb, 10 feet in a cul-de-sac island. No evergreen tree, ornamental tree, fruit or nut bearing tree or other trees not included in the approved list shall be planted closer than 15 feet behind the curb. No tree shall be planted closer than 19 feet from the near edge of the pavement if there is no curb.
- (4) The minimum size of tree to be planted shall be 2½ inches in diameter, measured 4½ feet above the base of the tree.
- (5) All trees to be planted shall be well-formed, sound vigorous, healthy and free from disease, sunscald, windburn, abrasion and harmful insects or insect eggs including root systems.
- (6) All trees shall be installed following accepted professional planting procedures as specified in the current Michigan Department of Transportation Standard Specifications for Construction. At a minimum, balled and burlapped trees shall be: backfilled with high quality top soil, planted in excavations that are two times the diameter of the root ball or two foot in diameter for every one inch of diameter for bare root planting stock, one foot deeper than the height of the root ball or root mass for bare root stock, staked, mulched and watered at the time of planting.

(7) Trees to be planted shall be chosen from the following list of species, including their cultivars:

<u>Common Name</u>	<u>Botanical Name</u>
Norway Maple	Acer Platanoides
Red Maple	Acer Rubrum
Sugar Maple	Acer Saccharum
White Ash	Fraxinus Americana
Green Ash	Fraxinus Pennsylvanica
Ginko	Ginkgo Biloba
Honey Locust	Gleditsia Triacanthos
Sweetgum	Liquidambar Styraciflua
White Oak	Quercus Alba
Bur Oak	Quercus Macrocarpa
Red Oak	Quercus Rubra
Littleleaf Linden	Tilia Cordata

- (8) Trees shall be maintained such that limbs over the roadway will be at least 13 feet above the elevation of the street surface.
- (9) Deciduous trees in a cul-de-sac island may be a species other than those listed in (7) if located more than 15 feet from the near curb and approved by the Managing Director of the Ingham County Road Commission.
- (10) All street tree plantings shall be included in the road construction plans, including variances from any of the above standards and shall be approved by the Managing Director prior to planting.

2. Existing Tree Standards.

Trees existing within the land for which a plat is proposed must conform with the requirements set forth in section N1 above.

3. Disclaimer.

The Road Commission will not be liable for tree damage due to routine maintenance operations such as road repair, street cleaning, tree trimming, de-icing, plowing, etc.

4. Final Authority.

The Board of County Road Commissioners of the County of Ingham reserves the right, in its discretion, to add requirements and to delete or modify existing requirements in the exercise of its statutory authority to maintain streets reasonably safe and convenient for public travel.

This policy shall become effective September 16, 1996.