



VILLAGE OF SCARSDALE

Frequently Asked Questions – proposed amendments to Chapter 281-Trees, Grass, Brush and Weeds

When and where is the public hearing?

The public hearing to consider a local law to amend Chapter 281 of the Scarsdale Village Code, entitled Trees, Grass, Brush and Weeds, will be held at 8:00 PM on Tuesday, March 13, 2018 in Rutherford Hall, Village Hall.

Why is tree protection important?

Trees, provide the following benefits to our ecosystem:

- enhance green space;
- improve air quality;
- reduce energy use and atmospheric carbon dioxide;
- provide and promote habitat for wildlife;
- inhibit excess runoff and flooding;
- provide screening; and
- offers a natural barrier for noise.

When did discussions about amending the tree law commence?

The discussion regarding amending the tree law commenced in 2013, at which time, the Conservation Advisory Council and the Friends of the Scarsdale Parks presented concerns with the existing tree law with associated recommended changes. After much deliberation by the Village Board, a tree working group was created in November of 2016 comprised of Staff, members of the Conservation Advisory Council and Friends of the Scarsdale Parks to develop amendments to the law for the Board of Trustees to consider and eventually adopt. The working group convened numerous times prior to submitting a revised local law to the Village Board in November 2017.

When is a tree permit required under the proposed amendments?

- If you remove a tree that exceeds 6” diameter at breast height (DBH) or greater (important to note the first two trees within a 24 month period may be removed without a permit fee to the property owner) and
- If you remove a Hawthorn, Crabapple, Redbud, Mountain Ash, Serviceberry and Birch that is 3” DBH or greater (important to note the first two trees may be removed without a permit fee to the property owner).

Frequently Asked Questions – proposed amendments to Chapter 281-Trees, Grass, Brush and Weeds – cont.

If the tree to be removed is dead, dying or diseased what are the requirements under the proposed amendments?

If removal of a dead, dying or diseased tree is desired, a tree permit is required; however, you do not have to pay a permit fee and are not required to replace the tree.

If I remove a tree when is it required to be replaced?

If you remove a tree that has a DBH of 24 inches or greater, you are required to replace the tree. Alternatively, you may make a payment to the Tree Preservation Fund for future Village planting. The existing law requires a mandatory replacement of a tree that has a DBH of 36 inches or greater. The chart below illustrates the number of replacement trees required under the existing law from January 1, 2017 to October 26, 2017 and corresponding numbers if the proposed amendments are adopted by the Village Board of Trustees.

Type of Application	# Applications	# Trees Removed	# Trees Replaced Existing Law	# of Trees Replaced Proposed Amendments
Diseased, Dead or Hazardous	90	184	15	30
New Residential Construction	29	345	7	45
Planned Removal and General Landscaping	29	111	7	29
Residential Expansion/Alteration/Addition	24	101	9	19
Total	172	741	38	123

Where can I read the current ordinance and the draft amendments to the tree law?

Please click here <https://ecode360.com/6439524?highlight=281#6439524> for the link to the existing law. Please click here for the link to [proposed amendments](#) and corresponding [staff memo](#).