



CITY OF MOUNT VERNON, N.Y.
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

SHAWYN PATTERSON-HOWARD
Mayor

City Hall, One Roosevelt Square
Mount Vernon, NY, 10550
(914) 914-665-2339
email:dpwconcerns@mountvernonny.gov

DAMANI L. BUSH
Commissioner

JOHN NUCULOVIC
Deputy Commissioner

February 24, 2025

Honorable City Council Members
Of the City of Mount Vernon
City Hall, Mount Vernon, New York
(Through the Office of the Mayor)

Re: Policy for Tree Planting in the Municipal Right-of-Way

Dear Honorable City Council Members:

The Department of Public Works seeks approval from the City Council to adopt a standardized Tree Planting Guide that will serve as a mandatory policy for developers who undertake projects involving tree planting within the municipal right-of-way.

Urban trees provide significant benefits, including improving air quality, reducing urban heat, enhancing stormwater management, and increasing overall community wellbeing. Currently, there is no standardized guide governing the planting, species selection, maintenance, or spacing requirements for trees planted in the municipal right-of-way by private developers.

Adoption of a comprehensive Tree Planting Guide as municipal policy to be enforced on all future development projects that include tree planting in the municipal right-of-way. This guide includes:

- Recommended tree species suitable for local climate and soil conditions.
- Standardized planting techniques and spacing requirements.
- Maintenance and watering guidelines.
- Replacement requirements if trees fail to establish within a specified timeframe.

Adopting this guide will:

- Ensure consistency and sustainability in urban forestry efforts.
- Improve tree survival rates and long-term health.
- Provide clear expectations to developers, simplifying compliance.
- Enhance the aesthetic appeal and environmental quality of public spaces.

"The Jewel of Westchester"



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It is respectfully recommended that the City Council approve the adoption of the proposed Tree Planting Guide as municipal policy, ensuring a healthier, greener, and more resilient Mount Vernon.

Warm regards,

Shayne Brooks
Director of Sustainability
City of Mount Vernon, NY
Sbrooks@mountvernonny.gov
914-840-4040

Damani Bush
Commissioner of Public Works
City of Mount Vernon, NY
Dbush@mountvernonny.gov
914-665-2492

Attachments: Standard for Tree Planting in the Municipal Right-of-Way

Cc: Mayor's Office
Corporation Council
Comptroller
Planning & Community Development
Buildings Department