



**MEMORANDUM
COUNTY OF ERIE
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS**

To: All District Maintenance Engineers

From: Karen Hoak, Deputy Commissioner, Highways

Date: April 28, 2022

Subject: Policy on Tree Planting on Erie County Highway Right-of-Way

Please note: this policy contains NO new information. It is an updated version of Erie County's 1987 tree policy which can be found on our website here:

<https://www2.erie.gov/dpw/sites/www2.erie.gov/dpw/files/uploads/TreePlanting-within-ROW-Policy.pdf>

1. Ornamental plantings will be allowed. No trees are to be planted that will have a mature trunk diameter exceeding 10 inches. Any species of Maple, Elm, Willow, Poplar, Pine, Fir, Cedar, or Birch are absolutely prohibited.
2. All planting shall maintain a clear height from the ground to the lowest hanging branch of 5'.
3. Plantings shall be placed a minimum of 3', preferably 5', behind the face of the curb.
4. Plantings shall be placed a minimum of 15' behind back of gutter sections with stabilized shoulders.
5. Plantings shall have a spacing to be no less than 50 lineal feet, trunk to trunk and shall be a minimum of 35' from the pavement edge at an intersection with the intersecting street to afford minimum legal sight distance.
6. Plantings are allowed on only roads having a speed restriction of 45 mph or less.
7. A request for planting ornamental plantings must be submitted for each road describing the planting in advance of the actual installation.
8. The County assumes no responsibility for the planting whatsoever and should any such planting be injured or diseased, the only obligation of the County will be to remove the planting if not properly cared for by the local municipality.