

Street Tree Program

Installation and Maintenance Standards

The township enacted a resolution in 2015 that sated a policy to not allow street trees within the right of way. This policy was based on:

- A. Health, safety and welfare with a determination that proper maintenance could not be provided by the township. The concern was three fold:
 - 1. Tree roots could break up curbs and sidewalks thus creating unsafe travel for residents and cause damage to trucks during maintenance
 - 2. Tree roots could grow into and damage utilities
 - 3. Unmaintained tree limbs could fall and harm persons or property

As you are aware, all of these concerns can be eliminated provided installation, maintenance and species selection as set forth in the resolution and zoning requirements of Evans Farm and future Berlin Township projects. The following discussion and solutions mitigate these concerns:

- A. The reason tree roots damage curbs and sidewalks is because the tree lawn between the curb and sidewalk is an insufficient width. In response to this concern and with no cost of maintenance to the township, our proposal specifies that the tree lawn between the curb and sidewalk be a minimum of seven feet in width thus allowing for proper tree spacing, sufficient room for root growth which will

minimize root encroachment on curbs or sidewalks. Also, our yearly trimming maintenance and fertilization programs will prevent the possibility of limbs dying and falling into the streets or sidewalks.

- B. Street trees buffer vehicular encroachment onto sidewalks and have been proven to be a safety measure that protects pedestrians from accident and injury from street vehicles.
- C. Wider tree lawns between curbs and sidewalks save lives by protecting adult and children pedestrians from vehicular accidents.
- D. Planting trees offsets global warming, improves overall health, enhances enjoyment of the outdoors and provides needed shade.
- E. Evans Farm utilities are not located under street trees inside the tree lawn.

To summarize, the township resolutions and policies are not applicable to Evans Farm for reasons stated above. Evans Farm development and future developments in Berlin Township should be mandated to plant street trees for the overall health, safety and welfare of its residents by endorsing the following:

1. Minimum seven foot width tree lawns adjacent to curbs
2. Utilities not located under tree lawn
3. Applicant, its successors and assigns, shall be responsible for all costs associated with street trees, including but not limited to installation, maintenance, replacement and any damages to any curb or sidewalk caused by street trees or implementation of street tree program