

*Urban Forestry and
Municipal Landscape Maintenance
Program*



*Village of Downers Grove
Public Works Department
Forestry and Grounds Division
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PREFACE

Interest in trees and forests can be found all around the world, and includes aesthetic, environmental, financial and sentimental reasons. Trees provide many benefits including canopies that provide shade and lower wind speeds, leaves that remove carbon dioxide and particulate matter from the atmosphere, root systems that stabilize soil, and overall forms that buffer noise pollution. Trees offer psychological benefits by growing into pleasing shapes with attractive colors, and by developing silhouettes that transform bland areas into more welcoming landscapes. Trees can supply important symbolic links with the past and can have great historic value if a living tree is associated with an important event or era with which there are few other connections.

Trees in the urban infrastructure comprise what is known as the urban forest. Urban forestry is defined as the art, science, and technology of managing trees, forests, and natural systems in and around urban areas for the health and well-being of communities. Urban foresters plant and maintain trees, support appropriate tree and forest preservation, conduct research and promote the many benefits trees provide. Urban forestry is practiced by municipal and commercial arborists, municipal and utility foresters, environmental policymakers, city planners, consultants, educators, researchers and community activists.

In the Village of Downers Grove, the public trees along the streets and on the Village owned properties are part of the urban forest that is under municipal control. Recognizing the importance of the urban forest, arboriculture and urban forestry, the Village established a Forestry Division in the early 1970's. Over the past five decades, Downers Grove has experienced a steady increase in the municipal urban forest. This has led to the development and implementation of a systematic management program for public trees and includes tree planting, follow-up maintenance, and removals as needed. As the Village has grown, the number of land areas owned and maintained by the Village has also increased and includes the Downtown District, train stations and public facilities. Subsequently, the Division has expanded to become the Forestry and Grounds Division, and forestry and landscaping activities have been combined into the urban forestry and municipal landscape maintenance program.

This comprehensive manual details the components of the Village's urban forestry and municipal landscape maintenance program. Each chapter addresses a specific area, and annual editions are printed to reflect new ideas and procedures, as well as update and summarize yearly activities.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I am very thankful and fortunate to have very capable employees in the Forestry and Grounds Division who have both directly and indirectly assisted me with the preparation of the annual edition of this manual. They have been very dedicated and have made numerous activities run smoothly including the annual Arbor Day celebration. Also, special and heartfelt thanks to my husband of more than 33 years, Mike Spravka, for his everlasting patience and perseverance, and for always being there to listen, offer valuable insight about trees, proofread my writing, and make every day worthwhile. This is the 26th edition since 1995, which I take tremendous pride in. Each annual edition is still a personal accomplishment for me, especially since the manual has doubled in thickness since the first edition. The work continues to be very satisfying and interesting.

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PREVIOUS EDITIONS By Kerstin G. von der Heide

Urban Forestry and Municipal Landscape Maintenance Program

May 2019 (25th edition), May 2018 (24th edition), May 2017 (23rd edition),
May 2016 (22nd edition), May 2015 (21st edition), May 2014 (20th edition),
May 2013 (19th edition), May 2012 (18th edition), May 2011 (17th edition),
May 2010 (16th edition), May 2009 (15th edition), May 2008 (14th edition),
May 2007 (13th edition), May 2006 (12th edition), May 2005 (11th edition),
May 2004 (10th edition), May 2003 (9th edition), May 2002 (8th edition),
May 2001 (7th edition), May 2000 (6th edition), May 1999 (5th edition)

Urban Forestry Program

May 1998 (4th edition), May 1997 (3rd edition), May 1996 (2nd edition)
August 1995 (1st edition)

PREVIOUS PLANS By Paul J. Appelt

Long and Short Term Urban Forest Management Plan April, 1984

Urban Forest Maintenance Plan April, 1981

PREVIOUS PLANS By John C. Van Kamp

Master Street Tree Planting Plan June, 1969

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