



Adopt-A-Tree & Planting Guidelines

4/22/08

DUMONT SHADE TREES – A BRIEF HISTORY

Dumont was a sleepy farming hamlet until 1883 when the West Shore Railroad arrived. In 1894, Dumont Clarke became the first Mayor. Developers enticed potential buyers from NYC, resulting in a population of 634 in 1900. One 1906 brochure describes: "Dumont is not a treeless farm... Its streets are shaded by stately trees, and its houses present an air of comfort and refinement..." Camp Merritt opened in 1917, with the Monument circle and the dogwoods planted in Memorial Park are reminders of the million soldiers who deployed here. In 1951 a short movie "MY TOWN DUMONT" described: "We are a commuting people, departing by bus or train... In the cool of the evenings we return... The air is pure, clear, crisp – where birds carol in melodious notes of welcome to a town sedate, calm, quiet and clean. A delightful place of shaded streets lined with pleasant, homey homes and gardens most attractively informal... Travel where you may, you will find no place more attractive in its simplicity than my town."

Dumont currently boasts a population over 16,000. Street Tree plantings have become mature and many have outgrown the space allotted to them. In 2006 a small group of concerned citizens banded together to bring the benefits of the *NJ Community Forestry Assistance Act* to Dumont. In 2007, Mayor Matthew McHale appointed the first Dumont Shade Tree Commission. In 2008, the Council passed the first Dumont Shade Tree Ordinance.

2008 SHADE TREE ORDINANCE (PUBLIC LANDS) SUMMARY OF KEY SECTIONS ABOUT THE "ADOPT-A TREE PROGRAM" & PLANTING GUIDELINES:

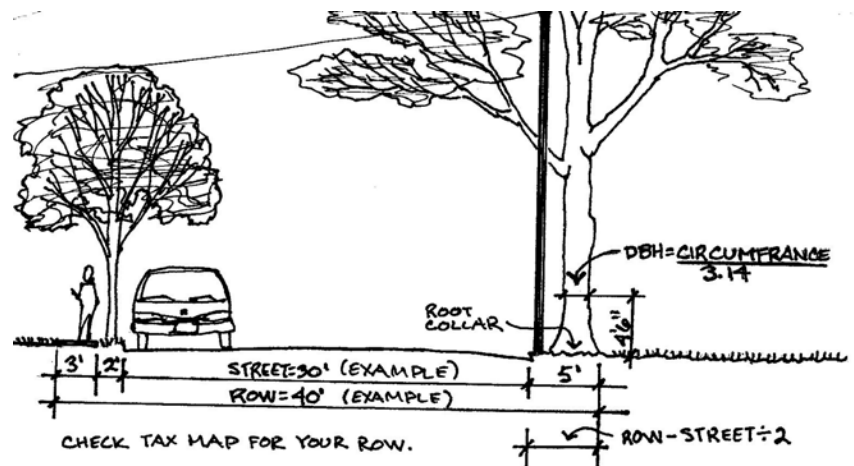
Borough Tree: Any Tree which is situated in or along any public property, park, field, public right of way, easement or encumbrance. Tree situation is evidenced by 50% or more of the root collar or base of the trunk at the entry point to the ground being upon Borough land, regardless of the location of the crown, roots, tilt of the trunk, or other part of the Tree in relation to the property line.

Right Of Way ("ROW"): The public property in the Borough of Dumont, which excludes private property, and is the jurisdiction of the Borough, and is inclusive of all land in and along any Street up to the private property lines as shown on the Tax Map.

Large Trees: Tree species attaining a height of fifty (50) feet or more at maturity.

Medium Trees: Tree species attaining a height of twenty-five (25) feet to fifty (50) feet or more at maturity

Small Trees: Tree species attaining a height of less than twenty-five (25) feet at maturity.



Planting Requirements: No Person shall plant any tree in any Park or Street, or other Public Land, or in the ROW, without a Permit or written direction from the DSTC. Planting in Private Land is not governed by or regulated by this Article. The DSTC may waive or modify required planting locations if field conditions or mitigating circumstances exist, such waiver or modification to be in writing only. The DSTC shall periodically review and approve lists of Small, Medium and Large Trees for planting in Public Lands in the Borough. Such lists shall be made readily available to the public. A PERMIT IS REQUIRED TO PLANT A TREE IN THE ROW.

Adopt-a-Tree Program: If the DSTC or the Borough deems that a new Tree or replacement Tree shall be planted, then the Borough may plant within the ROW as determined by the DSTC. Property Owners shall be given the opportunity to participate in the Adopt-a-Tree Program, which shall be reviewed periodically by the DSTC and shall, at a minimum meet the following criteria:

- The Property Owner may select a tree from the appropriate DSTC approved list.
- The Property Owner shall water the Tree after planting once a day for a week, once a week for a month and once a month for a year. Approved DSTC guidelines for watering shall be followed.
- The Borough of Dumont shall maintain the tree.

Planting Technical Criteria and Requirements:

- Minimum Spacing Between Trees:** The spacing for planting of street trees shall be in accordance with the three (3) size classes listed under Definitions, as follows:

	Small Tree	Medium Tree	Large Tree
Small Tree distance to the nearest	15'	15'	15'
Medium Tree distance to the nearest	15'	30'	30'
Large Tree distance to the nearest	15'	30'	40'

- Confining Elements:** When practicable, the planting distance from curbs or curb lines and sidewalks or other paved areas shall be in accordance with the three (3) size classes listed under Definitions, as follows: for a Small Tree, shall be one-foot and three inches (1'-3"); for a Medium Tree shall be two (2') feet and for a Large Tree shall be four (4') feet.
- Distance from Utilities:** The distance from the center of the tree to the vertical plane through a utility line shall be as follows:

	Small Tree	Medium Tree	Large Tree
Underground water, gas or sewage mains, or oil fill pipes, or coal fill chute	6'	12'	16'
Overhead electric, telephone and cable wires	0'	4'	4'

- Tree Collar Damage Prevention:** There shall be kept clear of lawn, vegetation and weeds an area of a minimum of one (1) foot around the base of newly planted trees. The intent of this section is to prevent injury to the newly planted trees from lawn mowers and trimmers.
- Fire Safety:** No Street Trees, or other woody plant material shall be planted, or allowed to branch into the ROW within:
 - Fifteen (15') feet of a fire plug, a standpipe connection, or any other water connection point for Fire Department use, or
 - The area directly in front of the entrance and egress doors to a building.
- Traffic and Pedestrian Safety:** No Street Trees, or other woody plant material shall be planted, or allowed to branch into the ROW within:
 - Twenty (20') feet of the mid-point of the curb corner at any intersection,
 - Seven (7') feet of a curb cut,
 - A location where the roadbed curves, in such a manner to block the view of drivers exiting any curb cut.
 - Twenty five (25') feet of a street light.
 - Thirty (30') feet of a stop sign, traffic light.
 - Six (6') feet of other traffic signs.
 - The area between five (5') feet and fifteen (15') feet behind a parking meter where car doors are anticipated to open.
 - A zone where such tree or woody plant material does not allow a clear three (3') wide pedestrian walkway to be maintained.
 - A zone within five (5') feet from the curb at bus stops, for the full length of the bus in the stopped position.
- Other Planting Requirements:**
 - Tree species must be selected from the DSTC Approved Tree Lists of Small, Medium or Large Trees, or shall be reviewed by the DSTC on a case by case basis for authorization to plant.
 - Three (3) or more trees of the same species may not be planted in immediate sequence proximity to each other. The purpose of this is to encourage biodiversity.
 - Tree(s) may be planted on either side of sidewalks in lawn areas where there is sufficient room within the ROW, however, the center of the new Tree shall be set in at least one-foot six-inches (1'-6") from the ROW border line.
 - Tree(s) may be planted in a Tree pit at the curb line of a sidewalk, where the sidewalk extends to the curb, provided that the remaining sidewalk is not less than three (3') feet clear, and provided that the tree pit is paved with a porous surface, such as cobbles or pavers set in sand, and that the tree pit is of the following sizes:

Tree Size:	Minimum Tree Pit Size:
Small Tree	3' x 4'
Medium Tree	5' x 10'
Large Tree	10' x 10'

Voluntary Planting and Maintenance Expenses Private Property Owners may apply to the Commission to voluntarily plant or maintain a Tree or Trees in the ROW abutting the Private Property. Permission shall be granted, provided the planting complies with this ordinance and other policies as approved by the Commission under an "Adopt-a-Tree Program". Voluntary plantings or maintenance costs may be borne by the Property Owner at one point in time, but this event does not obligate the Property Owner to bear future costs of maintenance or removal

Appeals: A property Owner may appeal decisions. For details of the appeal procedure, see the website or Appeals Fact Sheet.

