



BOARD OF TRUSTEES RICK KAZMIERCZAK 419-708-6290 TRAVIS WEIGEL 419-270-2847 GENE WILSON 419-344-0333	5565 County Road D, Delta, Ohio 43515 Phone: 419-822-4371
Website: www.swancreektpw.org	

Swan Creek Township Tree Trimming Policy

A. Purpose

This policy provides criteria for removal and trimming of trees or brush during routine maintenance and emergency conditions. These guidelines are consistent with Ohio revised Code (ORC) 5571.02, 5543.14 and 5571.14.

B. Policy and Effective Dates

This Policy is effective beginning 10/19/20, and will continue until further notice.

C. Criteria for Tree Trimming and Tree Removal

- 1.) Public Safety – Tree(s) or limb(s) need to be removed so drivers have a better field of vision to aid in making driving decisions, or to create better sight distance and visibility. Over hanging limbs that obstruct the overhead clearance of vehicular traffic will also be cause for removal.
- 2.) Road Maintenance – Removal may need to occur to allow sunlight to more easily penetrate a section of road, which can help alleviate pavement deterioration caused by perpetual damp areas beneath the pavement. Sunlight will also help snow and ice melt off faster. The threat of a tree’s root system to underground drainage tile and basins will be a matter of consideration in connection with tree removal.
- 3.) Emergency Situations – Removal of decayed, damaged, or dangerous tree(s) or tree branches will immediately and without notice to the owner of the land upon which the tree is located if, in the opinion of the Trustees or authorized contractor, the tree or branch poses an immediate danger to the health and/or safety of the public.
- 4.) Property Owner Request for Tree Trimming or Removal – Requests to cut or trim trees will be investigated by the Swan Creek Township maintenance department or by a representative of its authorized contractor. This individual will determine if work should be done immediately or scheduled to be done during routine maintenance in the near future. The property owner will be notified of the investigation results. Swan Creek Townships reserves the right to refuse to cut or trim any tree that is not in the right-of-way or that does not affect road maintenance.

D. Notification of Tree Trimming or removal

- 1.) Notification – Prior to the maintenance department or authorized contractor trimming trees in the right-of-way a member of the maintenance department will notify the property owner five (5) days before work shall occur, unless in an emergency situation. Notification may be done with a door hanger on the physical property or mailed to the property owner.
- 2.) Refusal of Service for Tree(s) in the Right-Of-Way – A property owner must notify in writing the Swancreek Township Board of Trustees and/or Swancreek Township Maintenance supervisor within three (3) business days of the tree trimming notification. The property owner will have seven (7) days to hire their own contractor (at the property owners' expense) to trim all the trees to Swancreek Townships specifications. If after the seven (7) day period the property owner has not had the trees trimmed, the maintenance department or authorized contractor will return in the presence of a police officer to the premises and proceed to trim the involved tree(s).

E. General

- 1.) Every effort will be made to obtain a three (3) year clearance on tree branches in the right-of-way.
- 2.) When contemplating the planting of trees, please note that the road right-of-way must remain free and clear of any obstructions.
- 3.) The Maintenance department or authorized contractors will cut the tree(s) as close to the ground as possible. The stumps, unless previously arranged with the Swancreek Township Board of Trustees in writing, will be the responsibility of the property owner.
- 4.) Brush, debris, and wood associated with trimming will be removed from the property when work has been completed. Property owner may request to keep any usable wood from tree trimming or removal. The township is not responsible for moving, stacking, or cutting to size any usable wood left by the property owner's request.
- 5.) Swancreek Township is only responsible for trimming trees in the right-of-way on township-maintained roads.