

## FAQ'S ON THE VILLAGE OF FRANKLIN 2012-13 HAZARDOUS TREE REMOVAL/PRUNING PROGRAM

### Question: Why are some trees being selected for removal?

Certain trees on **Village property** have been identified as hazardous due to their poor condition. Trees that have been identified as the following are targeted for removal to prevent damage to persons and adjacent public and private property:

- Dead
- Structurally unsound due to severe natural or man-made injuries
- Diseased
- Decayed and/or rotting
- Heavy leaning
- Uprooting

This action is not taken lightly and the removal of trees is seen as the last option but unfortunately this is, in a number of instances the only option. Any tree that is identified for removal will be marked with a spray painted dot and concerned persons can contact the Village Administrator and discuss the matter prior to the tree being removed.

### Question: What if a tree is only partially dead – why does it need to be removed?

Trees that are in poor condition will continue to deteriorate and usually have poor root structures which make them more likely to fail and fall. However, if they are removed while they are upright, the fall can be controlled and minimize damage to property. In some circumstances the only growth on a tree in a deteriorated condition is sucker growth which can sometimes be mistaken for healthy growth to the untrained eye.

### Question: Why not just let trees fall naturally?

The hourly cost for the tree contractor to remove a fallen tree that blocks a road or damages property far exceeds the cost to take it down based on its diameter while it is standing. The contractor can control the fall to minimize damage whereas there is the potential for significant property damage in an uncontrolled fall.

### Question: What other work will be done as part of the program?

In addition to the removal of hazardous trees, low hanging hazardous and dead branches over roads and electrical wires will be selectively cut back or removed.

Also to improve the visibility at intersections, undesirable underbrush growth will be cut back. This will provide room for pedestrians along streets and improve the health and vigor of desirable trees.

**Question: How will the contractor know which trees or branches are dead in the winter when the leaves are gone?**

There is a visible difference between dead and living trees. Dead trees and branches are missing bark and healthy trees have bud sets where the tree will leaf out the following spring. Removing trees in the winter has several advantages. There are fewer pedestrians which makes removal safer; there is less debris for removal and chipping; and the contractor has better visibility while doing the work.

**Question: How were the hazardous trees identified?**

The tree contractor has been monitoring the Village's trees since July 2011 noting diseased and hazardous tree locations. In September of this year, a thorough street by street review of the trees on public property was completed. In addition to assessing tree health, the contractor also identified intersections and streets with limited or no visibility that need to be cut back. Also identified were trees with low hanging and damaged branches that need to be elevated over certain sections of our roads.

Observable signs that a tree is hazardous include:

- Rot or decay at the base of a tree
- Fungus and/or conks growing out of the trunk
- Improper trimming that affects the health of the remaining tree branch
- Severe natural damage, i.e. lightning strikes, broken branches from wind damage
- Severe man made damage, i.e. damage caused by vehicles
- Tree previously observed as being diseased
- Significant decay and structural impairment
- A lean of 45 degrees with uplifting roots
- Multiple leads and trunks split or splitting

**Question: Who will remove the trees?**

The Village awarded a tree removal contract to Dan's Tree and Landscape LLC after a competitive bidding process for emergency and planned tree removal. Trees and debris removal will be done at no charge to the homeowner.

**Question: How long will the program take?**

The tree program will be done in two phases. The removal of hazardous and dangerous trees will begin in December and is expected to last four months. The removal of invasive and undesirable undergrowth will be conducted in the spring.

**Question: Will trees be replaced?**

A tree replacement program is currently being formulated. The replacement program will begin at a later date and will use dedicated money from the Village Tree Fund.

**Question: Will stumps be ground?**

Trees that were removed on property that has been maintained, i.e. landscaped and/or mowed, will be ground out. Stumps in naturalized areas will be left to decay naturally to minimize the cost of stump grinding. The stump grinding process will take place later in the year.

**Question: What about re-growth of suckers?**

The Village will explore the application of an herbicide to deter the re-growth of water sprouts or suckers on small trees. This will be compared to the cost and effectiveness of removing any re-growth on an as needed annual basis.

The Village's tree contractors are trained and certified in the use of herbicides. When herbicides are used, they bind quickly and tightly to affected plant material and do not leach into the water supply. The treated growth is left in place for 2 – 4 weeks to be absorbed by the roots then cut back to ground level.

**Question: What happens if there is damage to my property from the tree maintenance work?**

In some cases, contractors will utilize heavy machinery in order to remove trees from a property. Contractors will use the utmost care when removing trees and will leave the property in the same condition in which it was found. If any destruction is caused during the removal process, it will be restored to the original condition as soon as possible and at no cost to the homeowner.

**Question: Why will the underbrush be removed?**

Removing the underbrush allows for better growth habits of more desirable trees. Small invasive species of trees such as buckthorn, box elder, hackberry, mulberry and black locust compete for the same space and nutrients as desirable trees. Also the more undesirable

trees tend to be more susceptible to damage and disease which makes them more prone to failure.

**Question: How will the tree program be paid for?**

No property tax dollars are being used for this project. The hazardous tree removal and pruning program will be paid for out of the Village's Major and Local Road funds. The source of revenue for the road funds is gasoline tax revenue that is distributed by the State back to local governments based on the number of miles of roads in a community and its population.

**Question: How do I know where the public road right-of-way ends and my property line begins?**

The right-of-way for each street varies; a list of streets and their respective rights of way is accessible from the website. The easiest way to determine your property line is to measure from the center of the road towards your property the distance equal to the "right-of-way from road center" measurement on the attachment.

**Question: Will the trees scheduled for removal be marked?**

Yes. About a week prior to scheduled removal, trees will be marked with a spray paint dot.

**Question: Who do I contact to discuss a proposed tree removal?**

Call the Village Administrator at 248-626-9666. Please provide an address or distinct location for the tree in question.

**Question: How will the Village maintain the tree canopy after this program has been completed?**

Because a regular maintenance program has not been in place in recent years, this year's program will be a Village wide effort to remove hazardous trees. Once this program has been completed, the Village tree contractor will annually assess the health of trees on public property for any that need to be removed or pruned.

**Question: Can I request that the tree contractor leave a felled tree on my property for firewood?**

Yes the log can be left if you provide advance notice. However if you wish to have it cut into smaller pieces you will have to discuss that independently with the tree contractor. If you change your mind and request the log to be removed then additional cost may be incurred.