

**TREE ORDINANCE  
ORDINANCE NO. 2024-02**

AN ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING REGULATIONS FOR TREE PRESERVATION,  
PROTECTION, AND MANAGEMENT WITHIN THE CITY OF GREEN ISLE

**Findings and Purpose:**

The City Council of Green Isle recognizes the importance of trees and woodlands in providing environmental, economic, and aesthetic benefits to the community. Trees contribute to air quality, stormwater management, wildlife habitat, energy conservation, property values, and overall quality of life. The purpose of this ordinance is to establish regulations that protect, preserve, and enhance the trees and woodlands of Green Isle for present and future generations.

**The City Council of Green Isle, Minnesota ordains:**

**Section 1. Definitions.**

For the purposes of this ordinance, the following terms shall have the meanings given:

1. "Significant tree" means a healthy tree measuring a minimum of six inches in diameter for hardwood deciduous trees, eight inches in diameter for conifer trees, and 12 inches in diameter for softwood deciduous trees.
2. "Specimen tree" means a tree of any species that is 28 inches in diameter or greater, except invasive species.
3. "Tree preservation plan" means a plan that shows all trees in the area to be developed, including all significant and specimen trees to be preserved and measures taken to preserve them.
4. "City Forester" means a forester employed by the city or an appropriate agent designated by the city manager.

**Section 2. Tree Preservation Requirements.**

- a) A tree preservation plan shall be required for any land use, grading, or building permit application that involves the removal of significant or specimen trees.
- b) The tree preservation plan shall reflect the applicant's best effort to preserve the maximum number of significant and specimen trees while allowing for reasonable development of the property.
- c) The City Forester shall review all tree preservation plans and may require modifications to better preserve significant and specimen trees.

**Section 3. Tree Removal and Replacement.**

a) If less than 20 percent of the total significant or specimen tree diameter inches on the property are removed, the applicant shall replace one tree per significant and specimen tree removed. Replacement trees shall be a minimum of two caliper inches in size.

b) If 20 percent or more of the total significant and specimen tree diameter inches are removed, the applicant shall mitigate all significant and specimen diameter inches removed according to a formula established by the City Forester.

c) Replacement trees shall be planted on the property or, if not feasible, in locations approved by the City Forester.

**Section 4. Diseased and Hazardous Trees.**

a) The City Forester may declare any tree on public or private property that threatens the health of other trees or poses a safety risk to be a public nuisance.

b) The owner of the property on which a nuisance tree is located shall be responsible for its removal within 30 days of notification by the City.

c) If the owner fails to remove the nuisance tree, the City may remove it and assess the cost to the property owner.

**Section 5. Penalty.**

Any person violating any provision of this ordinance shall, upon conviction, be punished by a fine not exceeding \$1,000 or by imprisonment for a period not exceeding 90 days, or both, plus the costs of prosecution.

**Section 6. Effective date.**

This ordinance becomes effective from and after its passage and publication.

Passed by the City Council of Green Isle, Minnesota this 8th day of October, **2024**.



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Mayor

Attested:

  
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City Clerk