

Village of Morton Grove Tree Ordinance Summary



The Village continuously strives to better preserve and protect the urban forest as critical public infrastructure. On December 10, 2024, the Village Board of Trustees adopted Ordinance 24-28 (the “Tree Ordinance”) amending the Morton Grove Municipal Code to modify regulations relating to tree preservation and protection. The Ordinance was designed to establish a Tree Planting Fund to support the urban canopy, clarify tree removal procedures, enhance landscaping and tree protection requirements, prohibit invasive species, enhance species diversity, and regulate the removal of select trees on select private properties.

How does the Tree Ordinance affect my single-family or two-family residential property?

The Tree Ordinance and other landscaping requirements of Chapter 12-11 apply to properties with existing single-family and two-family homes for which the following types of projects are undertaken:

Qualifying Project	Requirements	Review
Construction, reconstruction, or expansion in floor area fronting on a street , not including detached accessory structures (e.g. garage, shed)	Submit with Building Permit Application: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Landscape plan including foundation plantings Tree preservation plan including planting or preservation of one (1) tree per front or street side yard unless inadequate space is available 	Administrative approval unless plans do not meet Village standards, then Appearance Commission review required
Removal of any tree greater than twelve inches (12”) in diameter at breast height and located on private property measuring equal to or greater than 21,780 sq. ft. (0.5 acres)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tree Removal Permit Replacement tree or fee-in-lieu unless exempted by a qualifying condition 	Administrative approval of Tree Removal Permit prior to removal of protected tree

What are the requirements for my non-residential or multi-family property?

The Tree Ordinance and other landscaping requirements of Chapter 12-11 apply to these types of properties as follows:

Regulation	New Requirements
Review Sec. 12-11-2.A	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A landscape plan and tree preservation plan are required for all business, commercial, and industrial units and multi-family development where a building permit is required for the construction or reconstruction of floor area or exterior modification, including site improvements. Landscape plans must be prepared by a licensed design professional registered in Illinois and tree preservation plans must be prepared by a certified arborist or licensed design professional registered in Illinois. Appearance Commission review and approval are required for all landscape and tree preservation plans.
Landscaping & Trees Sec. 12-11-2.B	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> One (1) tree is required to be planted or preserved in each required front and street side yard unless inadequate space is available.
Species & Planting Sec. 12-11-3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Invasive species listed in the Chicago Botanic Garden’s “Invasive Plants in the Chicago Region” are prohibited. Diversity among trees is required to reduce the risk of losing a large population of plants due to disease. All trees planted on public rights of way must be species listed in the Village’s Street and Parkway Tree List. Required trees planted on private property may not be of species listed in the Village’s Restricted Tree List.
Trees on Private Property Sec. 12-11-7	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Trees with a diameter of twelve inches (12”) or greater measured at breast height may not be removed without the Village’s issuance of a Tree Removal Permit. A replacement tree or fee-in-lieu are required unless the tree is exempted by a qualifying condition.
Maintenance Sec. 12-11-8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Landscaping and trees must be maintained in good health and in accordance with any approved landscape plan and tree preservation plan. Replacement plantings must be made within a certain timeframe.

Village staff are available to answer your questions about the Tree Ordinance and how it may affect your property and project. Please contact the Department of Community and Economic Development at **847-663-3062** or commdev@mortongroveil.org.

