



Palmer Township
Northampton County, PA

Policy and Procedures for
Trees and Sidewalks within
Township Right-of-Way

Adopted: March 07, 2016

Palmer Township

Trees & Sidewalks Policy

Section 1 - Introduction

The following outlines Palmer Township's policy and procedures for maintaining and answering questions related to trees and sidewalks within the street right-of-way.

Section 2 – Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to address the responsibility and guidelines of the Township and abutting property owners to street right-of-way trees and sidewalks.

Section 3 – General Policy

1. Palmer Township shall reserve the right to remove, control and to trim (with or without notice) all trees, shrubs, bushes and plants, whether ornamental or non-ornamental, within the street right-of-way for the purpose of safety clearances or roadwork or for safety reasons.
2. Abutting property owner(s) of street right-of-way shall be responsible for maintenance and care of all sidewalks, grade areas, grass and trees (including removal and replacement) within such right-of-way. However, if a tree is found to be diseased, dead or endangering life or property (at the discretion of the Township), the Township will remove the tree, or portions thereof.
3. Any portion of a tree, shrub, bush or plant which falls into the road or right-of-way shall be removed, up to the property line of the abutting parcel, and disposed of by the Township.
4. The Township shall not be responsible for the replacement of a sidewalk or the removal of a healthy tree which is affecting the integrity of a sidewalk. The responsible abutting property owner may remove the tree (at their expense) or cut the tree's roots to replace the sidewalk. If such tree dies as a result of the cutting of roots, the responsible party shall remove the tree.
5. Any removal of a tree, by the Township, shall not include removing or grinding the stump nor the replacement of such.