



Parkway Cyclical Tree Pruning Comprehensive Plan

8.18.25

Purpose of Brief:

- Comprehensive Parkway Tree Pruning Plan Summary
- Approval for awarding Cyclical Tree Pruning Plan



Cyclical Tree Pruning Program

- **Program:** It is a planned, recurring process of removing branches from trees to maintain their health, structure, and safety, as well as to manage tree size and appearance. The goal of a pruning program is to improve tree structure, enhance tree vigor, increase aesthetic appeal, provide adequate clearances, and maintain safe conditions in the right-of-way, while reducing costs associated with storm damage and tree failure.
- **Local Chicagoland communities Examples:** Downers Grove, Woodridge, Hinsdale, Riverside, Oak Lawn, Park Ridge, Wheaton, Oswego, Arlington Heights, Romeoville, Westchester, Schaumburg, Lombard, Naperville, Glencoe, LaGrange, and Oak Park all have well-established cyclical tree pruning programs.
- **Primary objectives:** Establish a comprehensive annual pruning service for all parkway trees throughout the Village, and to clarify maintenance responsibilities for these trees through Village code amendments.
 - This agenda item focuses specifically on implementing the annual pruning service, with code amendments being presented in future.

Cyclical Tree Pruning Program

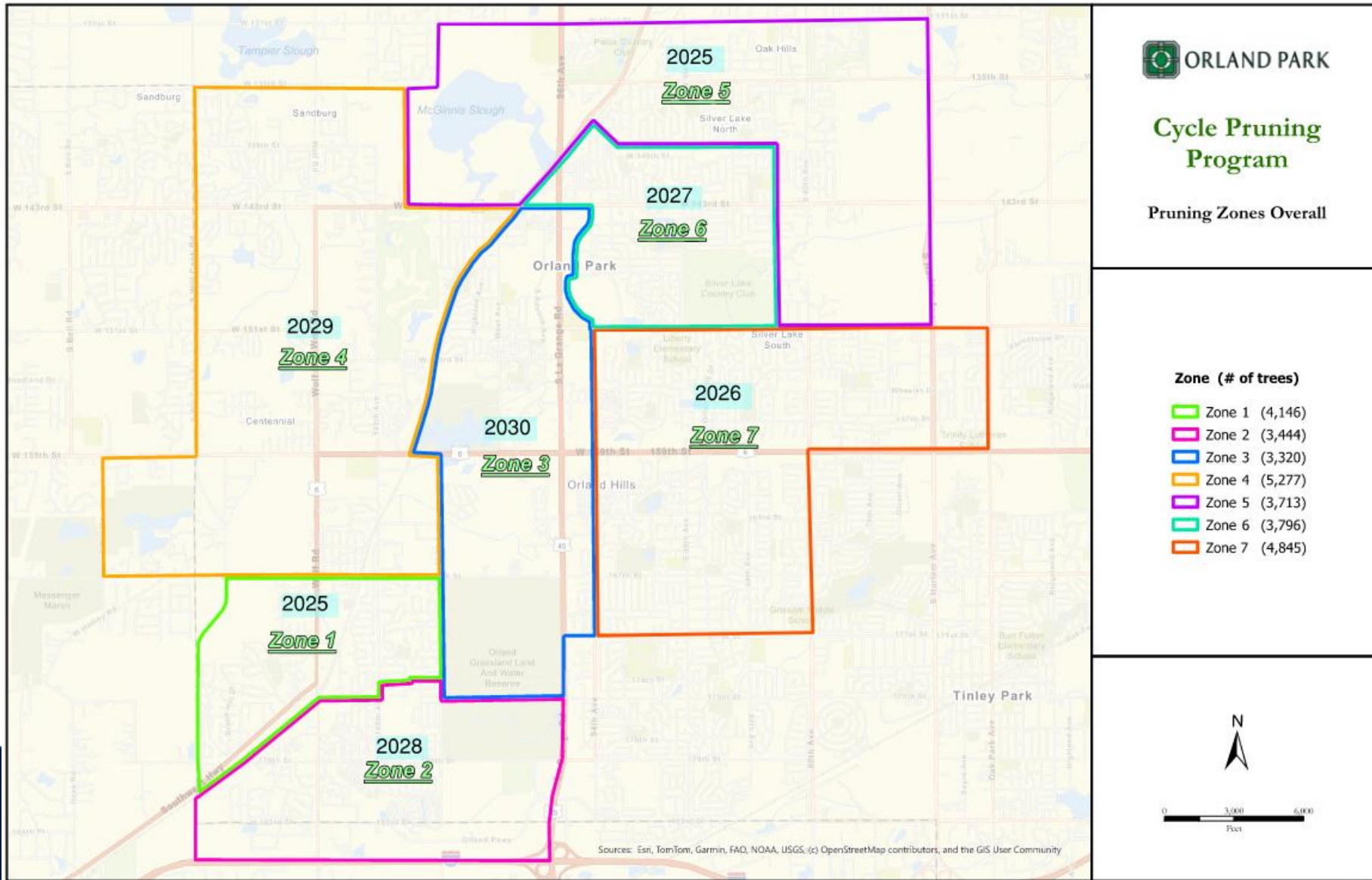
Key aspects of the Parkway Tree Pruning Program include:

- **Frequency and Zones:** The Village maintains 36,134 public trees across its parks, parkways and facilities, with 28,541 trees (79%) located in parkways. To facilitate efficient pruning operations, Public Works has divided the Village into 7 parkway tree zones, each containing approximately equal numbers of trees.

This structure enables a systematic 7 year pruning cycle, ensuring each zone receives professional maintenance once every 7 years, with provisions for emergencies or unique circumstances as needed. Phase 1 would run from 2025 through 2031. Upon completion of Phase 1, subsequent 7 year phases will maintain this regular maintenance schedule providing long-term care for the Village's urban forest.

- **Techniques:** The scope of work includes the removal of dead, diseased, or high-risk branches, as well as branches that interfere with traffic or utility lines. All work will follow ISA-certified arboriculture standards. Proper pruning techniques will be incorporated to avoid damaging the tree. This will include making cuts at the branch collar, avoiding excessive pruning and removing only the necessary branches.

Cyclical Tree Pruning Program Zones and Years



The proposed sequence of pruning zones was determined by the Public Works staff based on the available budget, data collected during the 2024 Tree Assessment and Inventory (tree species composition, age and average diameter), relative frequency of resident concerns and firsthand knowledge of the Village's parkway trees.

Cyclical Tree Pruning Program

- **Public Safety and Notification:** The Village will notify residents about the program through Village-wide communications (social media, website, newsletter), with additional neighborhood-specific notifications provided prior to work beginning in each area. The pruning program will prioritize removing branches that pose safety hazards to pedestrians and vehicles.
- **Pruning Timeframe:** Work will occur during the late Fall when trees become dormant so their health is not affected.
- **Tree Health:** Regular pruning will help prevent the spread of disease and insect infestations and promote overall tree health. Young trees will also be pruned to promote strong structure and growth.
- **Aesthetic Appeal:** Pruning will help maintain the shape and symmetry of trees, enhancing their visual appeal. Trees that have been formally pruned over many years will be treated on a case-by-case basis.
- **Professional Expertise:** Professional arborists and tree care specialists will be involved in implementing the pruning programs, especially for large trees or complex situations.

* Residents are still encouraged to prune their trees in future year zones as we roll into this cyclical program.

What is not in this Scope of Tree Pruning Program

- **Private Property:** The Program will not impact trees on private property. Private property trees will continue to be the responsibility of property owners and in accordance with the Village Code.
 - **Village Parks and Facility Grounds:** Public Works' Forestry Crew, comprised of highly trained certified arborists, will be able to dedicate more time to maintaining trees located on Village parks and facility grounds. These areas often receive less attention due to the demands of parkway-related resident concerns, storm damage and hazards.
- * The Forestry Crew remains available to address urgent tree maintenance issues that cannot wait for the next scheduled pruning cycle and for storm damage response for parkway trees.
- * * Public Works will continue to pruning locations ahead of Road Improvement Program (RIP) due to large construction vehicles damaging tree limbs.

Proposals Received

4 of the 6 pre-qualified Village tree service contractors provided proposals for the Phase 1 period of 2025-2030.

Smitty's Tree Service was deemed the lowest qualified bidder.

2025 - Zones 1, 5 and Tree Removal Allowance:

\$442,220.00 (\$178,618.00 + \$238,602.00 + \$25,000.00)

2026 - Zone 7: \$321,405.00

2027 - Zone 6: \$271,520.00

2028 - Zone 2: \$145,350.00

2029 - Zone 4: \$217,019.00

2030 - Zone 3: \$142,196.00

TOTAL: \$1,539,710.00

Questions?

I move recommend to the Village Board to approve and authorize the execution of a Contractor Agreement between the Village of Orland Park and Smitty's Tree Service, Inc. as the lowest cost qualified responsive proposal for the Annual Parkway Tree Pruning Program – Phase 1 for a cost of \$442,220.00 for 2025, a cost of \$321,405.00 for 2026, and a cost of \$271,520.00 for 2027, with the option to extend the contract for three (3) additional years (2028 – 2030) for a cost of \$145,350.00 for 2028, a cost of \$217,019.00 for 2029, and a cost of \$142,196.00 for 2030, for a total not-to-exceed cost of \$1,539,710.00.