

PE6 Action: Develop a Local Forestry or Tree Planting Project or Program

In order to maintain healthy trees in Village of Saranac Lake, a public tree care law has been adopted by the Village. The adopted ordinance was drafted around the same time that the Village of Saranac Lake applied to the Arbor Day Foundation's Tree City USA program. The documentation of both of these measures is included, as well as documentation of a large-scale tree planting and tree maintenance projects. The Village of Saranac Lake Board of Trustees has recognized the important environmental, economic, and community well-being benefits to maintaining a healthy tree canopy. It is up to the continued observance of the public tree care law and actions taken to complete a tree canopy inventory in order to reap those future benefits. The Village of Saranac Lake has cemented our role in planting and protecting trees in the community.

**Business of the Village Board
Village of Saranac Lake**

SUBJECT: Adopt Tree Law

Date: 12-9-2019

DEPT OF ORIGIN: Village Manager

Bill # 152-2019

DATE SUBMITTED: _____

EXHIBITS: _____

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

Village Attorney

Village Administration

EXPENDITURE
REQUIRED

AMOUNT
BUDGETED:

APPROPRIATION
REQUIRED

Adopt Tree Law

MOVED BY: Murphy SECONDED BY: Catillaz

VOTE ON ROLL CALL:

MAYOR RABIDEAU yes

TRUSTEE SHAPIRO yes

TRUSTEE CATILLAZ yes

TRUSTEE LITTLE yes

TRUSTEE MURPHY yes

Village of Saranac Lake

Local No. 6 of the year 2019

The local law will be known as the Village of Saranac Lake Public Tree Care Law

Be it enacted by the Board of Trustees of the Village of Saranac Lake as follows:

Section 1. Statement of legislative intent

It is the purpose of this local law to promote and protect the public safety, and general welfare by providing for the regulation of the planting, maintenance, and removal of trees, shrubs, and other plants within the Village of Saranac Lake which are on Village property. The Board of Trustees recognizes the role that trees play in the village ecosystem and that they contribute to the quality of air, reduce noise and visual pollution, help to moderate climate extremes and conserve energy, and the Board further recognizes the role trees play in enhancing property values and the general quality of life in the Village. In order to establish a responsible program for planting, maintenance, or removal of trees in the Village, the Board of Trustees finds it necessary to establish a Tree Committee and to adopt this Local Law to provide an orderly framework to maximize the benefits afforded by trees within the Village.

Section 2. Definitions

- a. **Street trees:** "Street trees" are herein defined as trees, shrubs, bushes, and all other woody vegetation on publicly owned property within the Village.
- b. **Park Trees:** "Park trees" are herein defined as trees, shrubs, bushes and all other woody vegetation in public parks having individual names, and all areas owned by the Village, or to which the public has free access as a park.

Section 3. Establishment of a Tree Committee

- a. Establishment; membership; terms
 - (1) The Village Board of Trustees shall create an advisory committee known as the "Village of Saranac Lake Tree Committee." The Committee shall consist of three members, all of whom shall have a working knowledge of tree care. In addition, the Village Manager and the Village DPW Superintendent shall serve as ex officio members of the Committee. Each member shall be appointed by the Mayor, subject to approval by the Board of Trustees.
 - (2) The members shall be appointed initially as follows: one member shall be appointed for a term of two years; and two members shall be appointed for a term of three years. Thereafter, all appointments shall be for three years.
 - (3) If a Committee member does not serve the full term for reasons other than the expiration of the term, the Mayor shall appoint a successor, to serve for the unexpired term
- b. Tree Committee duties. The Tree Committee shall have the following duties that include, but are not

limited to:

- (1) Studying, investigating, developing and/or updating the Village's written plan for caring, preserving, pruning, topping, replanting, removing or disposing of trees and shrubs in parks and on other publicly owned property.
- (2) Maintaining reference materials relating to trees and shrubs.
- (3) Maintaining an inventory of the location of street trees and determining areas where such trees could exist but are absent.
- (4) Establishing a suggested species list for the village and recommending to the village the type and kind of trees to be planted upon village property.
- (5) Identifying trees for immediate removal.
- (6) Providing a long-range plan every five years for the Village relating to street trees and shrubs.
- (7) Providing the Village Board of Trustees with a yearly estimate of the cost of nursery stock to be used. Such plan shall be presented annually to the Board.

C. Meetings.

- (1) The Committee shall meet a minimum of two times each year. The Committee may call additional meetings as needed.

Section 4. Care of Public Trees

- a. The municipality or its agent shall perform all necessary maintenance to preserve and protect street trees in a safe and healthy condition, including trimming, spraying, fertilizing, watering, staking, topping, root pruning, mulching, treating for disease or injury, and removal if necessary.
- b. The village shall have the right to plant, prune, maintain and remove trees, plants and shrubs within the limits of publicly owned property or parks as may be necessary to ensure public safety or to preserve or enhance the symmetry and beauty of such public grounds.
- c. The Village Tree Committee may recommend a tree or part of a tree be removed if the tree or tree part:
 - (1) Poses a potential public safety risk or hazard; or
 - (2) Causes an unsafe condition; or
 - (3) By its nature, is injurious to sewers, electric power lines, gas lines, waterlines or other public improvements; or
 - (4) Is affected with any injurious fungus, insect or pest.

Section 5. Approval for Action within the Village

- a. No one except the Village of Saranac Lake or its agents acting on the Village's behalf, shall remove, destroy, or cause the removal or destruction of a tree on any publicly owned property or in any Village park, or undertake construction or any activity which may significantly and prematurely detract from the health or growth of a tree without first having obtained permission for such removal or construction from the Superintendent of Public Works.
- b. No one, except the Village of Saranac Lake or its agents acting on the Village's behalf, shall plant a tree or shrub upon Village property without first submitting a request to the DPW Superintendent who will

consult the Tree Committee before making a decision. The request shall state the number of trees to be set out; the location, species or variety of each tree to be planted; the method of planting; and any other information DPW Superintendent shall find reasonably necessary for its recommendation on whether or not the proposed actions are in conformance with the Community Forest Management Plan.

Section 6. Severability

If any section, subdivision, paragraph, subparagraph, clause, sentence, or part of this local law shall be adjudged by any court of competent jurisdiction to be invalid, such judgment shall not affect, impair or invalidate the remainder thereof, but shall be confined in its operation to the section, subdivision, paragraph, subparagraph, clause, sentence, or part thereof directly involved in the controversy in which such judgment shall have been rendered.

Section 7. Effective Date

This local law shall take effect immediately upon its filing in the office of the Secretary of State in accordance with Section 27 of the Municipal Home Rule Law.

Saranac Lake became a Tree City USA Community in 2019. Notification that our application was approved was received in February 2020:

From: dec.sm.urbanforestry <dec.sm.urbanforestry@dec.ny.gov>
Sent: Thursday, February 20, 2020 9:44 AM
Subject: Your Invitation to DEC UCF's Annual Tree City Recognition Ceremony

Congratulations!

Your Tree City/Campus/Line application has been fully approved, and you are officially invited to **DEC Urban and Community Forestry's Annual Tree City Recognition Ceremony and Workshop!**

The ceremony and workshop will take place on **March 19th** at the **Albany Marriott Hotel** located at 189 Wolf Road, Albany. There is lots of free parking!

Registration will begin at 9:15 a.m. and the program will conclude by 2:30 p.m.

This invitation is being sent to each of the contacts listed on your application for work done in 2019. **Each municipality, campus and utility is invited to be represented by two people.** The training offered at this event will be educational, engaging and useful for anyone who supports community trees. ISA and CNLP credits have been applied for. A delicious free lunch will be provided, and there will be vegetarian and gluten free options.

This year, registration will be online. Please follow [this link](#) to the registration form. You are welcome to register two representatives.

We hope to see you there!

Andrea

Andréa Nieves

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Follow us on Instagram: @nysdec

Saranac Lake is now listed as a Tree City USA Community on the Arbor Day Foundation website as shown in the screenshot below from <https://applications.arborday.org/community/city/>



Community

New York

Community Name

- Albany
- Amherst
- Amityville
- Ardsley
- Auburn
- Baldwinsville
- Ballston Spa
- Bath
- Battery Park City
- Beacon
- Bedford
- Bellerose

Saranac Lake, New York

Number of Years as a Tree City: 1

City Contact

Name: Jamie Konkoski
Email: comdev@saranaclakeny.gov

- [LOGIN](#)
- [RESET LOGIN PASSWORD](#)
- [CHANGE LOGIN CONTACT INFO](#)

Adirondack Daily Enterprise

Ad'k Educational Center students plant trees for Arbor Day



From left, Dalton LaFountain, Hayden Ormsby, Jason Branchaud and Benjamin Dupree plant red pine seedlings as part of Tuesday's Arbor Day event at the Adirondack Educational Center in Saranac Lake. (Enterprise photo — Justin A. Levine)

SARANAC LAKE — The Adirondack Educational Center offers lessons that

are different from most high school curricula, and those differences were in plain sight on Tuesday as students and members of the public planted dozens of trees around the 30-acre campus.

In honor of Arbor Day, the BOCES' school's natural resources and culinary arts programs hosted an event at the school to plant trees and pollinator gardens, and in return for some help digging holes, members of the public were given a sapling to take home.

"It's a really amazing opportunity," said Jess Vanzile, a senior from Saranac Lake. *"I had never really expected, going into this program, being able to do something like this. So to be able to plant things that you can definitely come back and see in a few years is really amazing. And I'm super-excited to come back and see how everything turns out."*

The event was put on by students and teachers at the school, as well as the state Department of Environmental Conservation and the Franklin County Soil and Water District. Kristin Ballou, the district forester, said the students at AEC were learning valuable skills.

"We've had a really good day; the weather hasn't been as bad as we thought," Ballou said. *"They (the students) have been really good, and I think they've been liking the hands-on experience. They've learned about planting trees, but they haven't had the opportunity to do something to this extent."*



Kristin Ballou, kneeling, shows a group how to plant trees at the Adirondack Educational Center's Arbor Day event on Tuesday. (Enterprise photo — Justin A. Levine)

Christian Wissler teaches natural resources at the school, and said the skills that go into designing a garden or establishing an apple orchard will help his students both at work and in life.

“My goal is to have students be able to apply the skills we learn in class and be able to share it with the public,” he said. “And to be able to build on their legacy projects — to have those things here so they can come back and discuss the projects they did.”

Wissler's program does a number of things that should last long after the current crop of students graduates, including building lean-tos, creating an apple orchard and planting gardens that culinary arts students at the school can utilize. Students in his program have also built trails at Dewey Mountain and Mount Pisgah in Saranac Lake.

“There are multiple ways (that the Arbor Day event will help students),” he said. “Looking at a long-term goal, which can apply to anything in life, and being able to break it down into smaller pieces and be able to put it together. It's not just planting a tree, it's ‘Why is that tree going there?’”

Adirondack Educational Center offers hands-on learning for area seniors and juniors in not only culinary arts and natural resources, but also cosmetology, automotive technology, building trades and health care.

Tree Maintenance Day: Smitty Day

As part of a Village-maintenance day, a group of Paul Smith's College professors and students in the Arboriculture and Landscape Management Department worked to clean up a section of the Saranac Lake Riverwalk. Professor Randall Swanson and Adjunct Professor Daniel Groves were on hand to answer questions. This program was made possible because of Franklin County Legislator Lindy Ellis, the Village of Saranac Lake, and [Paul Smith's College Arboriculture and Landscape Management Department](#).

