

TOWN OF BLADENSBURG

4229 Edmonston Road
Bladensburg, Maryland

ORDINANCE NO. 09-2025:

**AN ORDINANCE OF THE COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF BLADENSBURG
ESTABLISHING A FRAMEWORK FOR THE PROPER CARE, MAINTENANCE, AND
MANAGEMENT OF PUBLIC TREES WITHIN THE TOWN OF BLADENSBURG.**

WHEREAS, the Town of Bladensburg has resolved to become a member of Tree City USA, and part of this membership is a commitment to proper care and maintenance of the trees; and

WHEREAS, the Mayor and Council are supportive of green endeavors and have been certified by Sustainable Maryland as part of this certification is requires the expansion and adoption of new green policies and initiatives; and

WHEREAS, the Mayor and Council have adopted Resolution 08-2025 in which the Council Town consents to join Tree City USA; and

WHEREAS, the Town has engaged with the Neighborhood Design Center to conduct a tree assessment which is also a requirement for the Tree City USA designation; and

Section 1: Purpose The purpose of this ordinance is to establish a framework for the proper care, maintenance, and management of public trees within the Town of Bladensburg. This ordinance aims to ensure the health and longevity of the Town’s urban forest, enhance public safety, and promote environmental sustainability.

Section 2: Authority: The Town and Public Works manages and cares for public trees. The town and community partners will plant, maintain, prune, and remove trees on streets, in parks, and other public spaces within the town of Bladensburg. The Town shall also enforce the provisions of this ordinance and ensure compliance with applicable standards and guidelines.

Section 3: Public Tree Care

1. Planting of Public Trees:

- The Town and its community partners shall be responsible for selecting appropriate tree species for planting on public property, considering factors such as climate adaptability, growth characteristics, and potential impact on infrastructure.
- Public tree planting initiatives shall be conducted in consultation with the community and may involve partnerships with local organizations, schools, and residents.

2. Maintenance of Public Trees:

- The Town and its community partners shall establish and implement a regular maintenance program for public trees, which includes watering, mulching, fertilizing, and pruning.
- Pruning activities shall be carried out to promote trees' health and structural integrity, prevent interference with public utilities, and eliminate hazardous conditions.
- The Town will invest at least 1% of its budget on the maintenance and care of public trees as per the guidelines of Tree City USA.

3. Removal of Public Trees:

- The Town and its community partners shall have the authority to remove any public tree that poses a risk to public safety, is diseased, or is dead.
- Before removal, an assessment shall be conducted, and the decision shall be documented. Trees will be removed when possible and then replanted to maintain the urban canopy.

Section 4: Community Involvement The Town encourages active community participation in caring for public trees. Educational programs, volunteer tree-planting events, and partnerships

with environmental organizations shall be promoted to engage residents in the stewardship of the Town's urban forest.

Section 5: Penalties and Enforcement: Any unauthorized planting, pruning, or removal of public trees shall be subject to penalties as outlined in the Town's enforcement guidelines. The DPW is empowered to enforce this ordinance and take necessary actions to protect public trees.

Section 6: Effective Date

AND BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED that this Ordinance shall take effect within twenty (20) days of its passage.

AND BE FURTHER ENACTED AND ORDAINED that upon passage, this Ordinance shall be authenticated by the signature of the Mayor and Town Clerk and shall be recorded in a book kept for that purpose. In addition, this Ordinance shall be published by posting a certified copy of it in the Town Hall for ten (10) days following its adoption pursuant to Article II, Section 209 of the Charter of the Town of Bladensburg, Maryland. It will be effective the ____ day of _____ 2025.

APPROVED this _____ day of _____, 2025.

ATTEST:

MAYOR AND COUNCIL
TOWN OF BLADENSBURG

Regine Watson, Town Clerk

By: _____
Takisha James, Mayor

First Reading: December 9, 2024
Second Reading: January 13, 2025

Adopted:
Effective: