

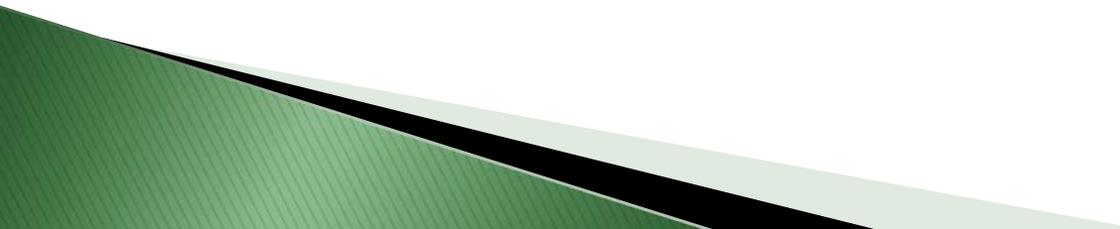
Canandaigua Street Reconstruction: Preserving Our Heritage Trees

Canandaigua Tree Advisory Board

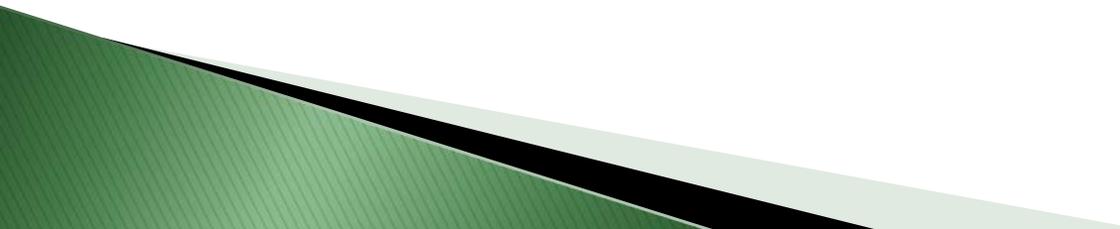
Bill Mehls, Laura Ouimette, David Poteet, and Torsten Rhode

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Why Does Canandaigua Have a Tree Advisory Board?

- ▶ The municipal trees are a critical part of Canandaigua's heritage – they are a primary distinguishing feature of our City
 - ▶ Our mission is to ensure that the protection and enhancement of our “urban forest” is a key objective of Canandaigua's plans and programs
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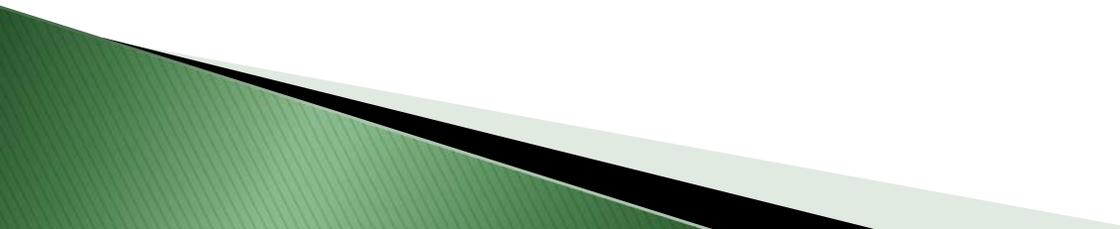
What is the Tree Advisory Board?

- ▶ The establishment of a Tree Advisory Board or Tree Department is one of the four standards of Tree City USA
 - ▶ The Tree Advisory Board was established by Mayor Polimeni in June 2011
 - ▶ Members are appointed by the Mayor and City Council
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Tree Advisory Board

- ▶ **Our Mission:**
 - To work to maintain the natural beauty of our city by promoting the aesthetic and environmental benefits of tree variety, quality, and maintenance.
- ▶ We work with City departments, other government agencies, civic organizations, and citizens to protect and enhance our municipal trees

Why Are We Here Today?

- ▶ Canandaigua's street reconstruction program is decimating our urban forest
 - ▶ Current street reconstruction standards, planning practices, and construction activities directly cause the death and removal of virtually all mature trees in reconstruction zones
 - ▶ These standards are developed and enforced by us – the city government and its departments
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Legacy Trees: North End of Charlotte – Not Reconstructed



Reconstruction Results: South End of Charlotte St.



Prospect St., Post-Reconstruction



West Avenue, After Reconstruction



West Avenue - Small Trees



Legacy Trees on Un-Reconstructed Portion of West Avenue



One of West Avenue's Few Remaining Legacy Trees



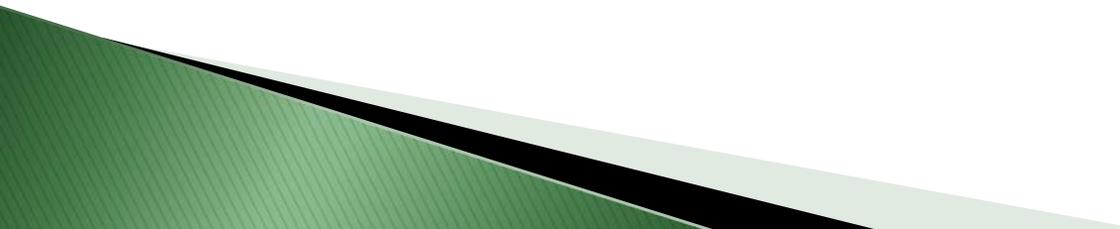
Chapin Street In Progress



How Do Our Standards Cause This?

- ▶ Municipal Code Chapter 802-13A sets minimum standards for street width and rights of way
 - Even “minor” residential streets require 50-foot rights of way
 - Minimum pavement width is 24 feet
 - Minimum sidewalk width is 5 feet
 - Mandatory curbs and road elevation changes aggravate the damage
- ▶ Similar to DPW Standards for Street Reconstruction?

Other Factors Affecting Reconstruction

- ▶ Emergency Vehicle Access
 - ▶ Americans with Disabilities Act
 - ▶ Federal and State Standards vs. “Municipal Home Rule” Flexibility?
 - ▶ Utilities and drainage
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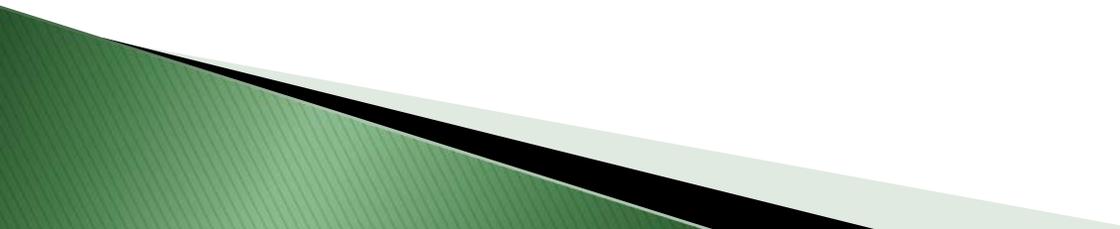
How Does This Affect Our Trees?

- ▶ Most tree roots responsible for supporting a tree are in the top 8” of soil
 - ▶ Curbs typically extend 3’ deep
 - ▶ Wider streets and sidewalks encroach into the critical root zones of our mature trees
 - ▶ The small remaining grassy right-of-way is too narrow to support tree growth
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What Will Our Legacy Be?

- ▶ The Canandaigua Tree Advisory Board struggles to see the overwhelming public interest that was served by these projects:
 - The changes are overwhelming our unique, historical community
 - They are unalterable
 - They threaten the very community we have chosen to live in and serve
 - This destruction is not mandated – it is not necessary!

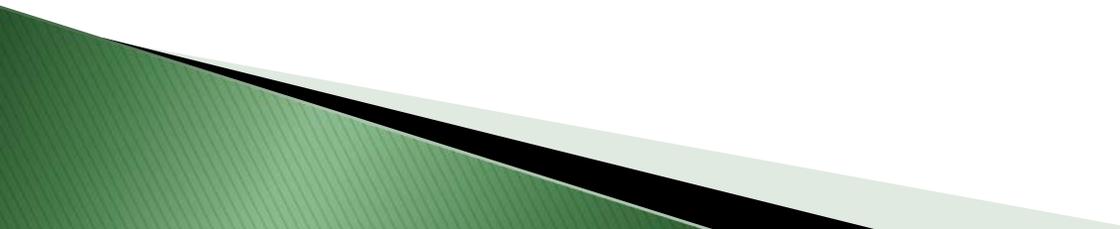
What Will Our Legacy Be?

- ▶ Our Capital Plan provides a responsible path forward for reconstructing our public works infrastructure
 - ▶ The current impact on our natural infrastructure is devastating
 - ▶ How we protect both will be our legacy
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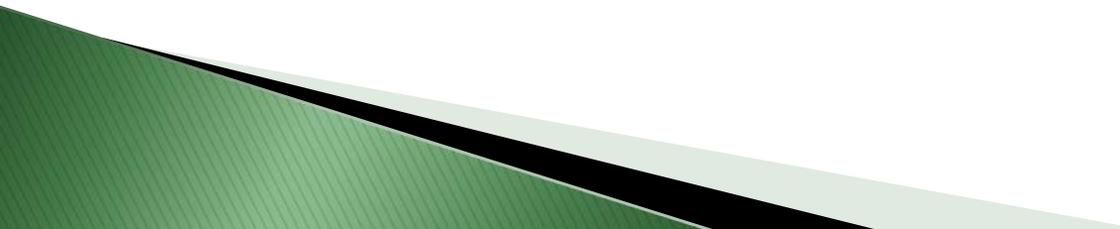
Recommendation: Comprehensive Street Construction Standards Review

- ▶ We request that a cross-functional team specifically review all current street reconstruction standards, code requirements, and laws
- ▶ We request that these requirements be specifically compared to the results documented in every street reconstruction project over the last 10+ years.
- ▶ Revised Standards and Recommended Construction Practices must define the options we can have available to protect our trees and neighborhoods

Recommendation: City Arborist

- ▶ City Council must pass legislation to ensure that a Certified Arborist (the “City Arborist”) is on staff at all times, a designation that may be held in conjunction with another city position
 - ▶ The City Manager must require that the City Arborist be a full member of the planning and execution team for any project that may affect the health or condition of existing or future trees
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Recommendation: Specific Impact Analysis for Trees

- ▶ City Council must require a specific and detailed Tree Impact Analysis for every project that may affect the urban forest
 - ▶ The Tree Impact Analysis must be co-authored by the Director of Public Works and the City Arborist
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Recommendation:

City Council Approval by Vote

- ▶ The Analysis must be presented to City Council for approval as an integral part of the Project Plan:
 - Potential impact to current and future trees
 - Alternatives to mitigate harmful impact
 - Likely result of current project plan
 - Impact + remediation of worst case
- ▶ The Tree Impact Analysis must be specifically voted upon by City Council, and individual votes must be recorded

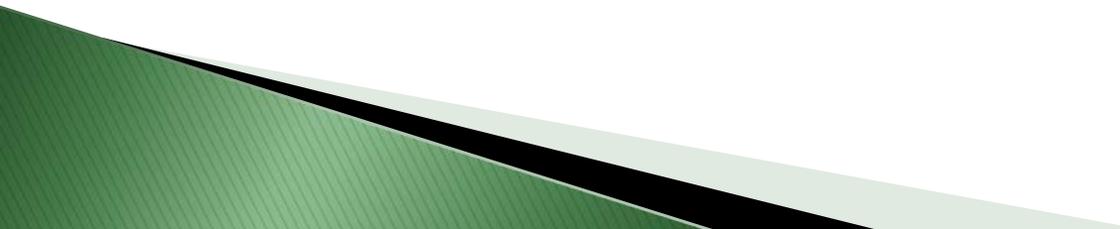
Recommendation

- ▶ The Tree Advisory Board must be represented as a standing contributor to the Comprehensive Plan

Summary

- ▶ Comprehensive Street Reconstruction Standards Review
 - ▶ Certified City Arborist as a required position
 - ▶ City Arborist as a full planning member of projects that may affect the urban forest
 - ▶ Tree Impact Analysis authored by Director of Public Works and City Arborist
 - ▶ Public Council Vote to approve the Analysis as part of the Project Plan
 - ▶ The Tree Advisory Board as a standing contributor to the Comprehensive Plan
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Defining Our New Legacy

- ▶ Our mature, urban forest is a unique and distinguishing feature of our beautiful and historic community
 - ▶ Protecting and promoting our legacy landscape is a defining characteristic of living in, and governing, Canandaigua
 - ▶ Canandaigua is a forward-thinking and safe community, with a modern infrastructure that sets the standard in promoting and enhancing our distinctive mature trees
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Thank You

Questions and concerns?

