INTRODUCTION

Trees and other wood plants respond in specific and predictable ways to pruning and other maintenance practices. Careful study of these responses has led to pruning practices which best preserve and enhance the beauty, structural integrity and functional values of trees.

In an effort to promote practices which encourage the preservation of tree structure and health, the following policies have been established. The specifications are presented as working guidelines, recognizing that trees are individually unique in form and structure, and that their pruning needs may not always fit strict rules.

OVERVIEW OF SPECIFICATIONS

Any tree work performed on a City tree must be done according to the City’s specifications. There are different criteria for pruning, depending on the purpose for the pruning.

All specifications are based on International Society of Arboriculture, National Arborist Association and American National Standards Institute criteria. This guarantees that Piedmont street trees receive the best possible care.

Bidders will be required to carefully examine the attached specifications and site locations of the proposed work to judge for themselves as to nature of work to be done and the general conditions relative thereto. The submission of a proposal shall be considered evidence that the bidder has made the necessary investigations and is satisfied with respect to the conditions encountered, the character, quality and quantity of the work to be performed. The Contractor is advised to visit the job sites prior to submission of bid. An optional pre-bid walk-through is scheduled for 2:00 pm., Tuesday October 2, 2012 to answer any questions or concerns. The pre-bid meeting will be held at 26815 Scotia Road, Huntington Woods MI 48070

GENERAL REQUIREMENTS

The following requirements are for use during any permitted work to be performed on City trees.

a. Proper disposal of all tree debris generated. All tree spoils may be disposed of at the City of Huntington Woods DPW yard in designated locations as determined by the DPW Director.

b. Assuring good traffic control and minimal disruption to the public.
c. Assuring adequate safety of employees and the public.

Prior to starting any work on a City tree, Contractor must schedule and attend a pre-contract meeting with the City of Huntington Woods DPW at 26815 Scotia Road, Huntington Woods MI 48070

At this meeting, schedules, procedures and any other questions pertaining to the project, as specified in the tree work, shall be discussed and any clarification addressed by the City.

PERMITS AND LICENSES

Contractor shall be certified as a ISA Arborist in the State of Michigan

CERTIFIED ARBORIST

NOTE: Any City-contracted tree company shall employ full-time on-site certified arborist, as accredited by the International Society of Arboriculture. This person is responsible for ensuring that the Contractor’s crews are performing work according to City specifications. The primary contact must meet with the DPW Manager three times weekly to ensure proper pruning of City trees. The DPW Manager Larry Harworth will be available at all times via cellular phone, 248-763-2762 should problems and/or questions arise.

SPECIFIC TREE PRUNING SPECIFICATIONS

A. All persons performing tree work on City trees must be trained according to tree care standards accepted by the International Society of Arboriculture.

B. All persons performing tree work on City trees in or around primary electrical lines must be trained to do so according to the “Electrical Safety Orders” of the State of California, including all amendments and revisions.

C. When tree pruning cuts are made to a side limb, such remaining limb must possess a basal thickness of at least one third (1/3) of the diameter of the wood so affected. Such cuts shall be considered proper only when such remaining limb is vigorous enough to maintain adequate foliage to produce wood growth capable of callusing the pruning cut so affected within a reasonable amount of time.

✔ All pruning cuts of limbs 2” caliper and smaller shall be completed with hand tree pruning tools (not with a chain saw).

✔ The contractor is to prune these smaller branches by climbing the tree, not by a bucket truck. The bucket truck is to be used to provide access to the tree and to provide a platform for pruning the outer tips of the tree, not the interior branches. The contractor is to avoid any damage to the tree by avoiding the use of the bucket truck in the interior structure of the tree.
The contractor is required to spend sufficient time on each individual tree to ensure that these problems can be avoided. The City is interested in having quality pruning work rather than quick, careless pruning. If it is found that the work is not being performed per these standards, the contractor will be told to stop work and the City will immediately conduct a review of the pruning work completed to date.

D. All final tree pruning cuts shall be made in such a manner so as to favor the earliest possible covering of the wood by natural callus growth. Flush cuts which produce large wounds or weaken the tree the cut shall not be made. The branch collar shall not be removed.

E. Tree limbs shall be removed and controlled in such a manner as to cause no damage to other parts of the tree, to other plants or to public or private property.

F. All tools used on a tree known to contain an infectious tree disease shall be properly disinfected immediately before and after completing work on such tree. All major pest problems shall be promptly reported to the DPW Manager.

G. All cutting tools and saws used in tree pruning shall be kept sharpened to result in final cuts with an un-abrasive wood surface and secure bark remaining intact. All trees six (6) inches in diameter or less shall be pruned with hand tools only. Chain saws will not be permitted on any trees six (6) inches in diameter or less. This is to prevent any unnecessary abrasions to cambial tissue that may predispose a tree to insect and/or disease problems.

H. Whenever pruning cuts are to be made, while removing limbs too large to hold in one hand during the cutting operation, the limbs shall first be cut off one (1) to two (2) feet beyond the intended final cut. Then the final cut shall be made in a manner to prevent unnecessary tearing back of the bark and wood. Such cutting back shall not include the removal of any live, health limbs in excess of six (6) inches in diameter without prior approval from the DPW Manager.

I. The City requires that no more than twenty-five percent (25%) of the live wood may be removed from the crown of any tree. No drop-crotching and no “lion’s tails” will be allowed. The trees are to be thinned.

J. Any extraneous metal, wire, rubber or other material (i.e. stakes and ties) interfering with tree growth shall be removed whenever possible.

K. Any defective or weakened trees shall be reported to the DPW Manager. Specifically, any structural weakness of a tree, decayed trunk or branches, shall be reported in writing, noting the location of the tree by street address and a description of the hazard found in the tree.

L. The use of climbing spurs or spike shoes in the act of pruning trees is prohibited.
M. Beneficial animal or bird nests or nesting cavities shall be preserved and protected whenever feasible, unless doing so would create a hazard.

COMPLETE TREE PRUNING SPECIFICATIONS

Complete tree pruning shall consist of the total removal of those dead or living branches as may threaten the future health, strength and attractiveness of trees. Specifically, trees shall be pruned in such a manner as to:

A. Prevent branch and foliage interference with requirements of safe public passage. Over-street clearance shall be kept to a minimum of sixteen (16) feet above the paved surface of the street, fifteen (15) feet above the curb and eight (8) feet above the surface of a public sidewalks or pedestrian ways. Exceptions are allowed for young trees which would be irreparably damaged by such pruning action. Tree branches shall be kept to a minimum of six (6) feet away from residences measured horizontally from the edge of roof and porches.

B. Remove all dead and dying branches and branch stubs that are one-half (1/2) inch diameter or larger. The contractor is not to leave any stubs, flush cuts and areas of torn bark below the cuts due to incorrect pruning procedures. The contractor is to avoid all chain saw damage to trees due to carelessness.

C. Remove all broken or loose branches (hangers).

D. Remove any live branches which interfere with the tree’s structural strength and healthful development, which will include the following:

1. Branches which rub and abrade a more important branch.

2. Branches of weak structure which are not important to the framework of the tree.

3. Branches which, if allowed to grow, would wedge apart the junction of more important branches.

4. Branches forming multiple leaders in a single-leader type tree.

5. Branches near the end of a limb which will produce more weight or offer more resistance to wind that the limbs are likely to support.

6. Selective removal of undesirable sucker and sprout growth, paying specific attention not to nick or damage the sprout “burl.”

7. Selective removal of one or more developing leaders where multiple branch growth exists near the end of broken or stubbed limbs.
8. Selective removal of limbs obstructing buildings or other structures or traffic signs. **Generally, limbs closer than six (6) feet to a residence or other structure should be removed,** unless doing so would severely damage a tree.

9. Removal of branches which project too far outward beyond an otherwise symmetrical form. This includes branches that project too far out beyond the tops of tree crowns as well as the sides of the crowns. The contractor is to thin the trees rather than crown reduction (heading cuts).

E. Cut back ends of branches and reduce weight where excessive overburden appears likely to result in breakage of supporting limbs.

F. Clear trees of sprout or sucker growth to a minimum height of eight (8) feet above ground level. Exceptions are allowed for young trees which would be irreparably damaged by such pruning action.

G. Obtain a balanced appearance when viewed from the opposite side of the street immediately opposite the tree, unless otherwise authorized by the DPW Manager.

H. Remove all vines entwined in trees and on tree trunks. Vine tendrils shall be removed without injury to said trees.

**UNACCEPTABLE PRUNING**

The following procedures, or others that will result in tree decline, are not allowed (storm damage and other extenuating circumstances exempted):

A. Severe cutting back of all growing tips, usually referred to as topping, pollarding or hatracking.

B. Flush cutting where a cut is made even with the surface of the trunk or limb, removing the branch collar and branch bark ridge.

C. Stub cutting where branch removal results in the base of branch removed protruding more than approximately one-quarter (1/4) inch beyond the zone of branch collar and branch bark ridge.

D. Removal of a healthy main leader for reasons other than power line clearance.

E. Excessive cutting or lifting that exceeds the International Society of Arboriculture or City standards.

F. Removal of all interior growth on a branch resulting in a “lion’s tail,” or tip heavy, less-safe level.