



CITY OF ANN ARBOR TREE INVENTORY DEFINITIONS

Location: Street tree locations and planting sites are organized by sequential tree site number and road name, block side, or corner location. An X and Y coordinate was generated for each tree and site and is in State Plane, MI South Zone, International Feet.

Species: Trees are identified by genus and species using both botanical and common names and by cultivars where appropriate.

Tree Size: Diameter is measured to the nearest inch in one-inch size classes at 4-½ feet above the ground, or diameter at breast height (DBH).

Tree Height—Tree height is be measured in feet and organized/recorded into one of the following height classes:

0-10'
10-20'
20-30'
30-50'
50-70'
>70'

Condition*—The general condition of each tree is rated according to the following categories adapted from the International Society of Arboriculture's rating system:

Excellent	100%
Very Good	90%
Good	80%
Fair	60%
Poor	40%
Critical	20%
Dead	0%

***Please see below for a description of each condition category.**



Maintenance Need—Each tree is classified into one of the following recommended maintenance categories:

- **Priority 1 Removal**—These trees have defects that cannot be cost-effectively or practically treated, have a high amount of deadwood, and pose an immediate hazard to a property or person. Davey recommends that these trees be removed immediately.
- **Priority 2 Removal**—These trees are not as great of a liability as Priority 1 Removals, being smaller and/or less hazardous, although they are also recommended for removal. Davey recommends that they be removed as soon as possible.
- **Priority 3 Removal**—Trees designated for Priority 3 Removal do not pose a public hazard and are small, dead, or poorly formed. Smaller dead trees and failed transplants are in this category. Large trees in this category are generally poorly sited, of inferior quality, and pose little to no threat to the community.
- **Priority 1 Pruning**—Trees in this category need pruning to remove hazardous deadwood limbs greater than four inches in diameter and/or have broken, hanging, or diseased limbs.
- **Priority 2 Pruning**—These trees need pruning to remove hazardous deadwood limbs greater than two, but less than four, inches in diameter.
- **Large Tree Routine Pruning**—Trees in this category have characteristics that could become risks if not corrected. Deadwood limbs are less than two inches in diameter.
- **Small Tree Routine Pruning**—This category includes small growing trees that can generally be maintained from the ground, *i.e.*, crabapples, serviceberry, dogwood, etc., and other trees 20 feet or less in height.
- **Training Pruning**—This category includes trees under 20 feet tall with correctable structural problems or minor amounts of deadwood that pose minimal threat of personal injury or property damage. Inexpensive pruning at this stage significantly affects the future of these trees. Young trees in this category that will be large at maturity generally require an annual pruning or inspection.
- **Plant**—Data on vacant planting sites is collected using policies on minimum tree lawn width for mature tree size, spacing between trees, distances from intersection and traffic safety signs, and the presence of utilities.
- **Stump Removal**—Stumps are identified separately since they may not be removed at the time of a tree removal.

Additional Notes—Additional information of possible importance is noted here.



Further Inspection—Most trees in this category require an annual inspection for several years. A healthy tree obviously impacted by recent construction serves as a prime example. This tree will need annual evaluations to assess the impact of construction on its root system. Another example would be a tree with a defect requiring additional equipment for investigation.

Overhead Utilities— The inventory indicates the presence of overhead utilities at the tree site as well as current conflicts.

- **Yes**—Overhead utilities are present at the site.
- **No**—Overhead utilities are not present at the site.
- **Present & Conflicting**—Overhead utilities are present and the tree is conflicting with the lines.

Tree Condition Definitions

Condition indicates the current state of a tree's health, structural soundness, overall shape, and growth rate. Symptoms of poor condition include discoloration, decay, dieback, decreased internodal length, and/or disfigured or necrotic stems or roots. To some extent, condition class is also a reflection of the life expectancy of the tree. Crown development, trunk condition, major branch structure, twig growth rate, insects/diseases, and root condition are all considered. In general, the condition of each tree is recorded as one of the following categories adapted from the rating system established by the International Society of Arboriculture® (ISA).

- **Excellent**—100% - 90% condition class. The tree is nearly perfect in condition, vigor, and form. This rarely used category is generally applicable to small DBH trees or shrubs that have been recently transplanted and are well established. It also applies to large trees that have established themselves successfully in the landscape.
- **Very Good**—89% - 80% condition class. Overall, the tree is healthy and satisfactory in condition, vigor, and form. The tree has no major structural problems, no mechanical damage, and may only have insignificant aesthetic, insect, disease, or structure problems.
- **Good**—79% - 61% condition class. The tree has no major structural problems, no significant mechanical damage, may have only minor aesthetic insect, disease, or structure problems, yet is in good health.



- **Fair**—60% - 41% condition class. The tree may exhibit the following characteristics: minor structural problems and/or mechanical damage, significant damage from non-fatal or disfiguring diseases, minor crown imbalance or thin crown, or stunted growth compared to adjacent trees or shrubs. This condition can also include trees that have been topped, but show reasonable vitality and show no obvious signs of decay.
- **Poor**—40% - 21% condition class. The tree appears unhealthy and may have structural defects such as codominant stems, severe included bark, or severe trunk and/or limb decay. A tree in this category may also have severe mechanical damage, crown dieback, or poor vigor threatening its ability to thrive. Trees in poor condition may respond to appropriate maintenance procedures, although these procedures may be cost-prohibitive to undertake.
- **Critical**—20% - 1% condition class. The tree has a major structural problem that presents an unacceptable risk, has very little vigor, and/or has an insect or disease problem that is fatal and, if not corrected, may threaten other trees on the property.
- **Dead**—0% condition class. This category refers to dead trees only.