



# Utilities & Street Trees

## DUMONT SHADE TREES – A BRIEF HISTORY

Dumont was a sleepy farming hamlet until 1883 when the West Shore Railroad arrived. In 1894, Dumont Clarke became the first Mayor. Developers enticed potential buyers from NYC, resulting in a population of 634 in 1900. One 1906 brochure describes: "Dumont is not a treeless farm... Its streets are shaded by stately trees, and its houses present an air of comfort and refinement..." Camp Merritt opened in 1917, with the Monument circle and the dogwoods planted in Memorial Park are reminders of the million soldiers who deployed here. In 1951 a short movie "MY TOWN DUMONT" described: "We are a commuting people, departing by bus or train... In the cool of the evenings we return... The air is pure, clear, crisp – where birds carol in melodious notes of welcome to a town sedate, calm, quiet and clean. A delightful place of shaded streets lined with pleasant, homey homes and gardens most attractively informal... Travel where you may, you will find no place more attractive in its simplicity than my town."

Dumont currently boasts a population over 16,000. Street Tree plantings have become mature and many have outgrown the space allotted to them. In 2006 a small group of concerned citizens banded together to bring the benefits of the *NJ Community Forestry Assistance Act* to Dumont. In 2007, Mayor Matthew McHale appointed the first Dumont Shade Tree Commission. In 2008, the Council passed the first Dumont Shade Tree Ordinance.

### 2008 SHADE TREE ORDINANCE (PUBLIC LANDS) SUMMARY OF KEY SECTIONS ABOUT UTILITIES AND STREET TREES:

**Borough Tree:** Any Tree which is situated in or along any public property, park, field, public right of way, easement or encumbrance. Tree situation is evidenced by 50% or more of the root collar or base of the trunk at the entry point to the ground being upon Borough land, regardless of the location of the crown, roots, tilt of the trunk, or other part of the Tree in relation to the property line.

**Right Of Way ("ROW"):** The public property in the Borough of Dumont, which excludes private property, and is the jurisdiction of the Borough, and is inclusive of all land in and along any Street up to the private property lines as shown on the Tax Map.

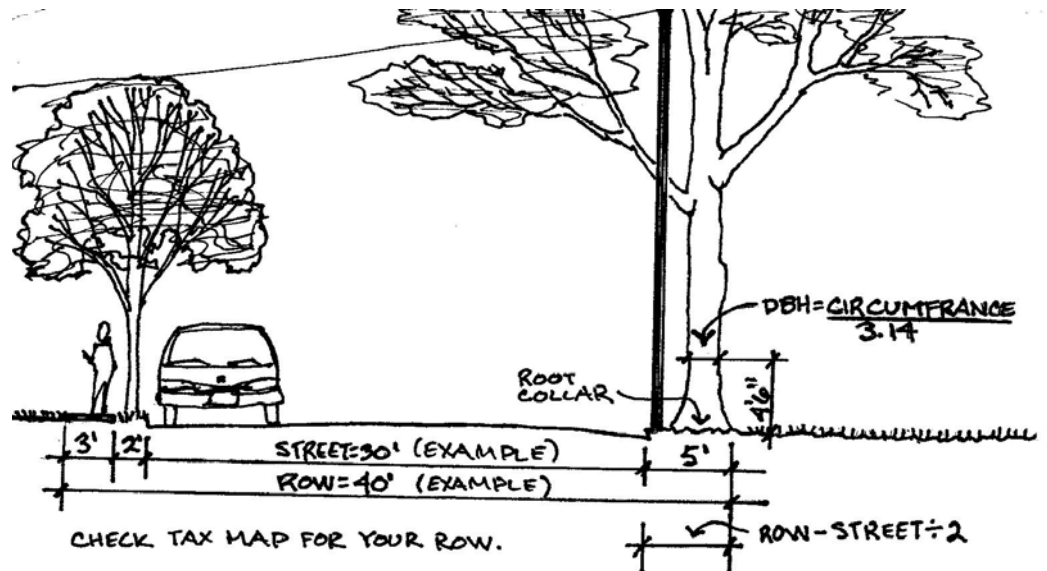
**Diameter Breast Height (or "DBH"):** The diameter of a Tree measured at a point on the Tree 4'-6" from ground level.

**Large Trees:** Tree species attaining a height of fifty (50) feet or more at maturity.

**Medium Trees:** Tree species attaining a height of twenty-five (25) feet to fifty (50) feet or more at maturity

**Small Trees:** Tree species attaining a height of less than twenty-five (25) feet at maturity.

**Sewer Service Mains.** All sewer service mains from private improvements to the point of tap at the public sewer main are the responsibility of the Property Owner to maintain regardless of the origination of any Tree roots or other Tree related problem. The Borough shall not be responsible for clearance of Tree roots, or replacement of sewer piping, or any other affiliated expense of sewer service mains. In the event that repair or replacement of the sewer main pipe would destabilize a Borough Tree(s) and cause it (them) to become a Hazard Tree(s) according to USDA Forestry guidelines, then the Property Owner must remove and replace the Borough Tree(s) at the Property Owner's expense. The replacement Tree must comply with the Planting Requirements of this Ordinance.



Overhead Utility Lines. Property Owners shall not prune or cause to be pruned any portion of any Tree within ten (10') feet vertical or horizontal distance of a utility wire, inclusive of electric, cable and telephone wiring. Issues pertaining to such wires should be reported to the Utility Company.

Construction. All Persons who shall conduct, or cause to be conducted, any erection, repair, alteration, construction, or other similar act near any Tree, shall use best efforts to protect and preserve the Trees in and about the area of such conduct.

Violations: The new Ordinance includes a list of violations ranging from unauthorized removal of a Borough Tree to vandalism to bad practices such as adding dirt or mulch in excess of 6" (this rots the tree at it's base). **Cutting of tree roots is prohibited because it makes the tree unstable.** For a list of the violations see the website or the Violation Fact Sheet.

Special Provisions for new Plantings - Distance from Utilities: The distance from the center of the tree to the vertical plane through a utility line shall be as follows:

	Small Tree	Medium Tree	Large Tree
Underground water, gas or sewage mains, or oil fill pipes, or coal fill chute	6'	12'	16'
Overhead electric, telephone and cable wires	0'	4'	4'

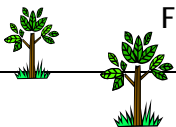
Other Planting Requirements: The DSTC shall periodically review and approve lists of Small, Medium and Large Trees for planting in Public Lands in the Borough. Such lists shall be made readily available to the public. Please be advised that there are specific requirements for planting including distances for other trees, fire plugs, corners, curb cuts, and other relevant Fire, Traffic and Pedestrian Safety factors.

Appeals: A property Owner may appeal decisions. For details of the appeal procedure, see the website or Appeals Fact Sheet.

Adopt-A-Tree Program: If the DSTC or the Borough deems that a new Tree or replacement Tree shall be planted, then the Borough may plant within the ROW as determined by the DSTC. Property Owners shall be given the opportunity to participate in the Adopt-a-Tree Program, which shall be reviewed periodically by the DSTC and shall, at a minimum meet the following criteria:

- a. The Property Owner may select a tree from the appropriate DSTC approved list.
- b. The Property Owner shall water the Tree after planting once a day for a week, once a week for a month and once a month for a year. Approved DSTC guidelines for watering shall be followed.
- c. The Borough of Dumont shall maintain the tree.

Voluntary Planting and Maintenance Expenses Private Property Owners may apply to the Commission to voluntarily plant or maintain a Tree or Trees in the ROW abutting the Private Property. Permission shall be granted, provided the planting complies with this ordinance and other policies as approved by the Commission under an "Adopt-a-Tree Program." Voluntary plantings or maintenance costs may be borne by the Property Owner at one point in time, but this event does not obligate the Property Owner to bear future costs of maintenance or removal



For additional information regarding Dumont Shade Trees, please see <http://dumontshadetree.org/>  
Dumont Shade Tree Commission - Borough Hall, 50 Washington Avenue, Dumont, NJ 07628

