

Judd Hart
President & CEO

I would like to take the opportunity to briefly outline our methodology in regards to public tree pruning and removals, in hopes it may offer a better understanding as to how we determine when a tree removal is a necessity.

J. H. Hart Urban Forestry began working with the City of Berkley in February of 2016. The City of Berkley sought to bring on a tree company to cost effectively create a safer and healthier urban forest. Previously, there was not a systematic and comprehensive tree pruning program to tend to the City right-of-way trees. This was a change for Berkley, as previously services were more "on demand as situations arose. The goal of the block trimming program is to make the tree canopy safer for the public while creating maximum aesthetics benefit to your residents.

We initially started with block trimming in Section 1 (Woodward to Coolidge between 11 Mile and Catalpa) and upon completion moved into Section 2 (Woodward to Coolidge between Catalpa and 12 Mile). As was the goal, since the program began Berkley staff has confirmed the trimmed areas have experienced a decrease in storm damage. We are performing Class A (or Class I) trims, as requested, on all City trees. This category of pruning includes:

- Removing all deadwood
- Removing all rubbing and crossing branches
- Removing all co-dominant stems
- Removal of no more than 1/4 of the tree canopy

Our company employs seven Certified Arborist who are well versed in tree inspections and determining their overall health and safety. Rest assured, the City's trees are assessed individually, most commonly from above. Please remember, we are viewing trees from up in our buckets with the ability to see much more than is viewable from the ground. If a tree is deemed to be a public hazard to pedestrians on the sidewalk or street, or to structures, a recommendation is made for removal. Otherwise, our crews continue with a Class A (or Class I) trim. A tree may be considered hazardous for many reasons, and there are many things to take into account (stress fractures, rot, cavities, storm damage). A tree can be determined to be unsafe, regardless of how it appears from the ground.

The City of Berkley has a significant silver maple population. Unfortunately, silver maples are considered prolifically growing "weed" trees and do not have great longevity due to their soft wood and high probability of rot. Many of the silver maples have hollow limbs/trunks even though leaves continue to grow and appear.

J. H. Hart has the city contracts for 5 neighboring communities, including Birmingham and Royal Oak. We are well versed in municipal forestry and the challenges it presents for residents who notice a change in the public right-of-way. We are sympathetic to this and would never unnecessarily remove trees without a thorough inspection. The City hired us to provide quality, efficient services to make your forest safe, beautiful and properly maintained.

If I can be of any further assistance, please do not hesitate to ask.

Sincerely,



Judd Hart, President

You deserve professional service. Your trees deserve professional care!



PO Box 222
Birmingham, MI
48012

800.404.9390
248.647.4408

f 586.795.0930
e info@jhart.com