

# Normanside Neighborhood street tree survey results and recommendations



October 15, 2025

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Photo by Madeline Hehir

# Summary

## Survey results

### Question 1: Where should new sidewalks be built on Euclid?

The options were neither side of the street (remove the sidewalks), one side, or keep sidewalks on both sides. **There's no consensus among residents about where to build new sidewalks.** Euclid residents who currently have sidewalks slightly favor keeping sidewalks on both sides of the street, but that was the option that the rest of the neighborhood most strongly disapproved of. There were strong feelings expressed about each potential solution, with many residents strongly approving or disapproving of each option.

### Question 2: How should new sidewalks be built on Euclid?

This question addresses the scenario assuming new sidewalks were to be built and offers three options for consideration. The options presented were to install sidewalks at the same 44" width as they are now, attempt to come to a legal agreement with affected homeowners to extend the Town's easement and then install 5' wide sidewalks adjacent to existing street trees, or cut down existing street trees and install 5' wide sidewalks.

If new sidewalks were to be built, the option of building new sidewalks at the same width and location is most preferred both by residents on Euclid with sidewalks and by residents in the rest of the neighborhood. **It is clear that residents do not want to cut down the existing trees.** In retrospect, the committee regrets not including an option of leaving the sidewalk as-is because the survey comments favor that option, as discussed below under [Recommendation #1](#).

### Question 3: Are you interested in hosting new street trees in your yard?

The committee asked residents if they would be interested in hosting a street tree in their yard, whether it be planted by the town to replace a street tree that's cut down, or planted through a voluntary program.

The results showed that **48% of respondents would host a replacement street tree from the town**, 36% would be interested in planting a mature tree, and 25% would be interested in planting a young tree whip. These robust results demonstrate the importance of street trees to the neighborhood.

### Question 4: Should the sidewalk on Euclid be extended to Yorkshire Ln.?

All four of the affected households (40, 42, 44, and 46 Euclid) said that they do not want the sidewalk extended to Yorkshire Ln.

# Recommendations to the town

**Recommendation #1: The sidewalks on Euclid and Burhans should be left as-is with minor blacktop repairs.**

The current sidewalks meet the town's three goals that were expressed to the neighborhood committee: to make the sidewalks Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) compliant, to avoid additional damage to lawns from snow plows, and to maintain safe walking conditions.

Neighborhood residents expressed the importance of maintaining street trees, and the street trees would likely die soon after sidewalks were replaced. We believe that the town can maintain the safety of the existing blacktop sidewalks by leveling the few sections pushed up by roots and patching them in a similar manner to filling potholes on the road.

**Recommendation #2: If new sidewalks are constructed, every effort should be made to avoid disturbing the street trees.**

**Recommendation #3: The town should selectively cut dangerous limbs from existing street trees and cut down unsafe trees.**

**Recommendation #4: The town should publicize a standard procedure for addressing limbs and trees that residents are concerned about.**

**Recommendation #5: The town should start to plant new street trees to maintain a canopy over neighborhood streets.**

In summary, the committee recommends that the town replace sidewalks elsewhere in town, rather than on Euclid or Burhans, and instead use tax dollars to maintain and replace the existing street trees in our neighborhood.

# Introduction and background

In April 2025, residents of Normanside Neighborhood in Elsmere learned that the town of Bethlehem planned to cut down the street trees on Euclid Avenue from Delaware Avenue to Capitol Avenue. A group of concerned neighbors joined together in an ad hoc committee. Bethlehem Supervisor David VanLuven and Highway Superintendent Marc Dorsey met with this neighborhood committee on June 12, 2025 to explain the reasons for the project and identify options for how the town could move forward. The committee created an online survey that described the options agreed to by the town, and invited neighborhood residents to fill it out. Town officials explained that even if a new sidewalk were to be installed at the current location, it would damage the trees by cutting through their roots, likely shortening their lives, and this information was passed on to survey respondents. This report is a summary of the survey results and the committee's recommendations for how to move forward based on the results.

# Methods

The survey was posted on the webpage <https://normanside.org/trees.html>. The web page describes the background of the neighborhood street tree committee and provides some benefits of street trees. Above the survey itself, background information and information for respondents to consider was posted. All of this information and the survey questions are shown in [the appendix of this report](#).

The survey was available from June 19 to August 26, 2025.

Neighborhood residents were encouraged to fill out the survey at a neighborhood potluck on June 19, via an email list with over 100 recipients, and by canvassing in the neighborhood.

The committee did not specify if multiple members of one household could fill out the survey, and we did not remove multiple submissions from the same address.

This report presents results separated based on if the respondent's address currently has a sidewalk on Euclid (from Delaware to Capitol) or if they live elsewhere in the neighborhood. The committee feels that residents who currently have a sidewalk on Euclid should have a greater say in what happens to those sidewalks than the rest of the neighborhood. However, everyone in the neighborhood uses the sidewalks, so everyone's responses should be considered.

# Results

Sixty-seven survey responses were received, including 22 responses from households on the stretch of Euclid that currently has sidewalks.

## Question 1: Where should new sidewalks be built on Euclid?

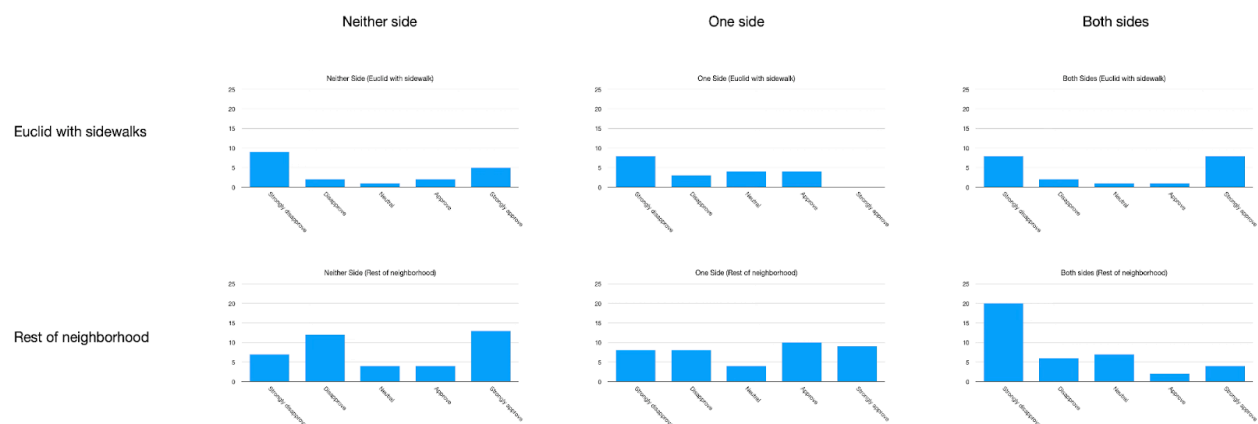
The survey asked how much residents approve of three options for where new sidewalks should be built:

- on neither side (removing the existing sidewalks on both sides)
- on only one side (removing the existing sidewalk on the opposite side)
- on both sides of the street.

For each option, respondents could choose how much they approve as one of five options:

- strongly disapprove
- disapprove
- neutral
- approve
- strongly approve

The results are shown below. The top row of charts is respondents on Euclid with sidewalks. The bottom row is the rest of the neighborhood. The charts on the left show approval for sidewalks on neither side. Charts in the center show approval for one side. Charts on the right show approval for both sides.



**The results show that there's no consensus about where to build new sidewalks.** Euclid residents with sidewalks slightly favor keeping sidewalks on both sides of the street, but that was the option that the rest of the neighborhood most strongly disapproved of. Not only was there no agreement on one solution, there were strong feelings expressed about each potential solution, with many residents strongly approving or disapproving of the various options.

## Question 2: How should new sidewalks be built on Euclid?

The intent of question #2 was if new sidewalks were to be built, then what is the preferred method/location of building them. The survey asked how much residents approve of three options for how new sidewalks should be built, if new sidewalks were to be built:

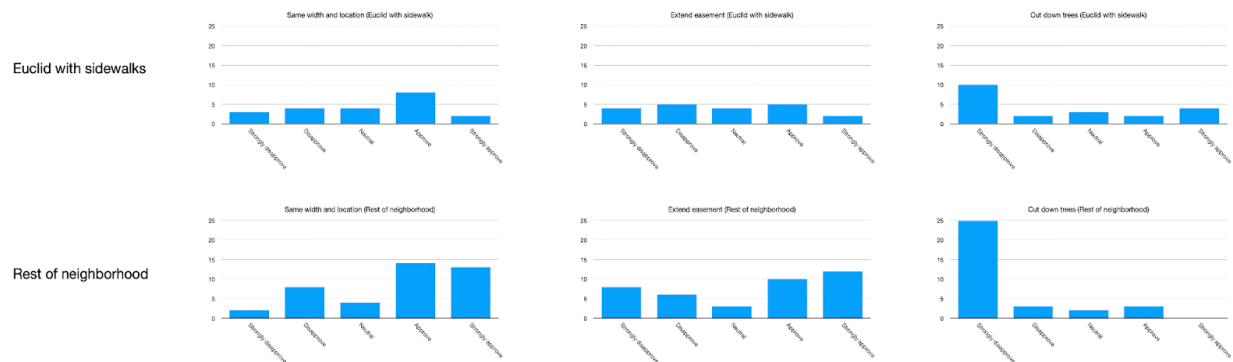
- Install sidewalks at the same 44" width and in the same location as existing sidewalks.
- Attempt to come to a legal agreement with all affected homeowners to extend the Town's easement by one additional foot, and if that is achieved then install 5' wide sidewalks adjacent to existing street trees.
- Cut down existing street trees and install 5' wide sidewalks.

For each option, respondents could choose how much they approve as one of five options:

- strongly disapprove
- disapprove
- deutral
- approve
- strongly approve

Again, results were separated based on if the respondents address currently has a sidewalk on Euclid (from Delaware to Capitol) or if they lived elsewhere in the neighborhood.

The results are shown below. The top row of charts is respondents on Euclid with sidewalks. The bottom row is the rest of the neighborhood. The charts on the left show approval for the same width and location. Charts in the center show approval for attempting to extend the easement. Charts on the right show approval for cutting down the existing trees.



Looking at the ratio of the sum of “approve” and “strongly approve” responses compared with the sum of “disapprove” and “strongly disapprove” responses, of the options presented in the survey, the option of building new sidewalks at the same width and location is most preferred both by residents on Euclid with sidewalks (10 to 7) and by residents in the rest of the neighborhood (28 to 10). **It is clear that neighbors do not want to cut down the existing trees.** In retrospect, the committee regrets not including an option of leaving the sidewalk as-is because the survey comments favor that option, as discussed below.

## Question 3: Are you interested in hosting new street trees in your yard?

The town has said that it will plant a new street tree for every one that it cuts down, due to sidewalk construction or age. If the tree is cut down in the yard of a homeowner who doesn’t want a replacement tree, the town will plant the new street tree in the yard of a willing homeowner within the neighborhood, as close to the original tree as possible. The survey asked respondents if they’d be willing to host one of these replacement street trees. The results showed that **48% of respondents would host a replacement street tree.**

Anticipating that there will likely be more interest in hosting a street tree than available replacement trees, the committee also asked about interest in a voluntary program to plant new street trees. The results showed that 36% of respondents would be interested in planting a mature tree and 25% would be interested in planting a young tree whip. Additionally, 19% said they’d donate money toward this cause and 30% would volunteer their time. **These robust results demonstrate the importance of street trees to the neighborhood.**

	Number of responses	Percent of responses
Houses that would host town trees:	32	48%
Houses that would pay for mature tree:	24	36%
Houses that would host whip:	17	25%
Donate	13	19%
Volunteer	20	30%

Respondents gave the neighborhood committee permission to provide their contact information to the town, so when a location is needed to host replacement street trees, the committee can provide a list of residents who are interested.

## Question 4: Should the sidewalk on Euclid be extended to Yorkshire Ln.?

The sidewalk on the northeast side of Euclid currently ends at Capitol Ave. Town officials said they planned to extend it to Yorkshire Ln. This question was not included on the survey because it primarily affects just four houses (40, 42, 44, and 46 Euclid). **None of the four affected households want the sidewalk extended to Yorkshire Ln.**

# Concerns expressed by residents

When speaking with neighbors and through written survey comments, the concerns expressed by residents were primarily about:

- tree safety (e.g. falling branches)
- water drainage on their yards
- getting new sidewalks on Salisbury Rd.

Only one person expressed a concern about the safety/walkability of current sidewalks (e.g. surface conditions or width) or snow plowing, which were two of the motivations for the sidewalk project expressed by town officials.

## Tree safety

Examples of comments were:

“If there is a way to preserve the healthy trees in some way, but remove the ones an arborist deems dangerous, I would be very much in favor of that.”

“Can a few trees whose branches are leaning over the street be pruned?”

“The existing, decrepit Silver Maples on Euclid Avenue and Capitol Avenue must be removed. ... Bottom line: sidewalks should be repaired where necessary, not replaced, Silver Maples need to come down and be replaced.”

“As a home owner on Euclid Ave- The Current Maple trees are dangerous, not well kept, and cause damage to the current sidewalks as well as personal property. And because the town just comes in and lops off branches touching the power lines they look ugly.”

“I am at a bus stop and contacted the town of the dangerous tree limbs falling like javelins just missing children walking or waiting for the bus. I thought the trees in front of my house were coming down this year before the school season began. They are a hazard and I highly recommend cutting them down before CHILDREN are injured. Also houses, property, and cars are destroyed every year! Please come and take the trees down! It will in the long run be an improvement. These trees can be replaced. They have come to the end of their lifespan. Let's plant new ones and have a safe sidewalk for all to enjoy!”

“I [am] all for trees that are manageable and would not pose any risk to our home”

“2 of the 3 silver maples in front of [my house on] Euclid Ave are already rotting from the inside and unsafe.”

“I prefer that the trees and sidewalks only be changed in cases where their condition presents a safety hazard.”

## Drainage

Comments about drainage included:

“The storm water drainage system should be upgraded on Euclid as well as Burhans. The entire drainage system in the swales needs to be redone and properly pitched so all properties on Burhans and Euclid, that currently have standing water in the front or back yards, can enjoy dry yards.”

“One of my major concerns are the culverts in front of our houses. I have had a work order in with the town since October of 2020 to have the pipes in the culvert cleared out. No one has come to do this. Could this be part of the same project? The water needs to run through all the pipes on Euclid as it should.”

“The culvert along Euclid should be cleared so the excess water in many backyards has a place to run off.”

## Sidewalks on Salisbury

Comments about installing sidewalks on Salisbury included:

“The town should consider prioritizing Salisbury sidewalks. It is by far, the busiest street in the neighborhood and has no sidewalks.”

## Condition of current sidewalks

The committee did not include a survey question asking about the condition of the current sidewalks. However, out of 67 responses, only one person expressed a concern about sidewalk conditions:

“I 100 percent support new side walks- the ones on my side of the street (even) are a falling hazard as the Maples have pushed them up.”

Therefore, we conclude that the condition of the current sidewalks is not a major concern within the neighborhood. The committee believes that the town can maintain the sidewalks by leveling the few spots that roots have pushed up and by patching the blacktop periodically, such as when potholes on the roads are filled in the spring.

# Recommendations

Based on the survey results and comments, the Normanside Neighborhood street tree committee has the following recommendations.

## Recommendation #1: The sidewalks in the neighborhood should be left as-is with minor blacktop repairs.

The sidewalks on Euclid, Burhans, and Capitol should not be replaced until the existing healthy street trees die. The reasons for this recommendation are:

### **Reason 1: This solution meets the town's stated goals:**

During an informal informational meeting with town officials (Highway Superintendent and Town Supervisor) and Normanside Neighborhood street tree committee members on June 12, the committee was told that the three motivations for replacing the sidewalks were:

1. To make the sidewalks Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) compliant
2. To avoid damage to lawns when the town plows snow from the sidewalks.
3. To maintain safe walking conditions

Town of Bethlehem goal #1: To make the sidewalks Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) compliant

Currently the sidewalks in the neighborhood are not ADA compliant because roots have pushed up the sidewalks and created tripping hazards. These hazards can be easily ameliorated by using blacktop to create gently sloping ramps over the roots. ADA regulations allow a maximum slope of 1:12, so for example a 6" high tripping hazard could be eliminated with a blacktop ramp that extends 3' on each side.

ADA compliance for sidewalks is determined by [NYSDOT regulations](#). Those regulations say that sidewalks need to be a minimum of 36" wide (section 403.5.1). Also, if there is an obstruction (e.g. a tree), the width can go down to 32" for a maximum of 48" length. The current sidewalks are 44" wide, so they meet this requirement.

Passing spaces of 60" must be provided every 200' (section 403.5.3). The sidewalks in the neighborhood cross numerous driveways, so they meet this requirement as well.

Therefore, **the current sidewalks are ADA compliant.**

Town of Bethlehem goal #2: To avoid damage to lawns when the town plows snow from the sidewalks.

Town officials said that the narrowest plowing vehicle that the town can use is 55" wide (wheel to wheel), which could result in damage to lawns if the sidewalk is narrower than this width. However, in discussing options the neighborhood has for new sidewalks at the June 12 meeting, town officials said that they would be willing to replace the sidewalk at the current width of 44", and in fact this was the preferred solution expressed in the survey results (see [Question 2: How should new sidewalks be built on Euclid?](#))

Therefore, **if the sidewalks are left as-is, the amount of plow-damage to grass in the winter would be the same as if the sidewalks were replaced at the same width**, so there is no benefit to replacing them.

Town of Bethlehem goal #3: To maintain safe walking conditions

The walking conditions on the existing sidewalks were not a major concern expressed by respondents in the survey comments or when committee members canvassed the neighborhood. (However, the committee did not include a survey question directly asking about this.)

The committee believes that the town can maintain the sidewalks by leveling the few spots where roots have pushed up the sidewalk and by patching the blacktop periodically, such as when potholes on the roads are filled in the spring.

### **Reason 2: Street trees would likely die soon after sidewalks were replaced**

At the June 12 meeting, town officials said that construction of concrete sidewalks requires digging down 18" below the surface, which would cut through the street trees' roots, even if the sidewalks are replaced at their current width. At that meeting the town official acknowledged that this is likely to damage the remaining healthy trees. A NYS DEC urban forestry expert told the committee that installation of a sidewalk is likely to kill adjacent street trees within 2 to 5 years by cutting through their roots.

### **Reason 3: Neighborhood residents expressed the importance of maintaining street trees**

Neighborhood residents want the town to maintain street trees, as evidenced by the comments provided via the survey, including:

- "The trees of Euclid, Burhans and Salisbury give character to the neighborhood, enhance property values and help to mitigate warming temperatures, and improve both air quality and quality of life. It's vital we maintain or as needed replace them"
- "I am able to walk [in] my neighborhood because of the shade provided by the trees. Without that shade, most summer days would be too hot to walk."

- “The unique and beautiful character of the neighborhood would be destroyed by putting in unnecessarily broad sidewalks. I strongly oppose the plan to take down trees. This will NOT improve our historic neighborhood.”
- “I am adamantly opposed to chopping down the existing silver maples. This will change the entire look of our neighborhood. We moved here 18 years ago partly because of the street trees. Save our silver maples!”
- “My preference for Burhans is to keep the trees. Without these tall and beautiful trees, the street will lose much of its character and charm.”
- “An effort should be made to save existing trees as much as possible.”
- “We love trees!”
- “About 35 years ago, I met a new neighbor who moved into Normansgate. She proclaimed Euclid Ave “the most beautiful street” because of the trees. I see many pedestrians every day in our neighborhood. Couples, (with and without strollers), bikers of all ages, small groups of friends and walkers on a fitness walk. On the section of Euclid Ave in front of my house, there isn’t a sidewalk and people are free to be in the street which is shaded by the beautiful trees.... I will support the addition of new trees to be ready to replace the big, beautiful maples.”
- “as the old adage goes, “the best time to plant a tree is 10 years ago” Obviously we can’t do that but hopefully we can stagger the removal of trees and undertake a robust tree planting program that many municipalities have to maintain the beautiful canopy we have on Euclid, Burhans Place and Salisbury. ... Also, as a handicapped individual, I have no problems when walking on the street. Neither do many other residents. Traffic is minimal (lets keep it that way) and the notion that we have to have wider sidewalks that will impact more mature trees does not make sense. We love our mature trees, which define our lovely neighborhood. Thank you.”
- “I’d prefer any solution that protects remaining trees and/or assessing their health and removes them in a slow and planned fashion while [replacing them] with large trees to try to to maintain as much of the canopy for as long as possible.”
- “The volume of aging trees in our neighborhood is concerning, regardless of the sidewalk project. Replacing these aging trees should be a community priority, with a strategic approach to introducing stronger, longer-lasting species. Over time, this would allow us to transition to a healthier, more resilient canopy—one of the defining features of our neighborhood that I believe we are all motivated to preserve and maintain.”

#### **Reason 4: There is no “good” solution for sidewalks offered by the town**

**Several respondents noted that there is no good solution for replacing sidewalks, and would prefer that the town leave the sidewalks as-is, as expressed in the survey comments such as these:**

- “This is one of the worst surveys I’ve ever participated in. The questions are skewed to get to predetermined answers. Basically if [any] sidewalk renovation occurs all of the trees will be dead within 3 to 5 years, unless the town cuts them all down sooner before sidewalks are added.”

- “None of the options seem to be viable to preserve the trees and afford a safe space for kids and families to walk.”
- “If replacing the sidewalk at its current width will damage healthy trees on Euclid Ave, we are opposed to replacing the sidewalk at all.”
- “I enjoy walking my dog on these sidewalks under the shade of the trees. Please leave them alone.”
- “We value the old street trees and current appearance of the neighborhood. Ideally the sidewalks would go untouched.”

As noted in the survey results above, residents have sharply divergent views about what should be done about the sidewalks and feel strongly about those views. Therefore, **any action taken by the town to replace the sidewalks would result in many angry residents**, no matter what that action is.

## Recommendation #2: If new sidewalks are constructed, every effort should be made to avoid disturbing the street trees

Any new sidewalk construction has the potential to damage street trees by severing their roots.

Any new sidewalks should be constructed at the width of the existing sidewalks. Also, sidewalks should be constructed to the minimal feasible depth, to minimize tree root damage. The committee has observed that other sidewalks in town have been constructed at less than a foot in depth.

## Recommendation #3: The town should selectively cut dangerous limbs from existing street trees and cut down unsafe trees

As noted above, one of the primary concerns of neighborhood residents is the safety of the current trees due to age and neglect. The town should have a professional arborist evaluate which limbs and trees pose a safety hazard and then the town should remove those in consultation with homeowners.

## Recommendation #4: The town should clarify and publicize a standard procedure for addressing limbs and trees that residents are concerned about

Residents the committee spoke with expressed safety concerns about specific limbs or whole trees, but had no ideas how to contact the town about them. One resident said they contacted the town about safety issues but did not hear back about any assessment or planned actions. A clear policy should be stated on the town's website.

## Recommendation #5: The town should start to plant new street trees to maintain a canopy over neighborhood streets

Many residents spoke about the importance of the canopy of street tree branches over the streets. In anticipation of the remaining healthy Maple trees dying within the next decades, the town should implement a program now to plant new street trees in the yards of willing homeowners. The town should offer tree species/varieties that will grow tall enough to create a canopy over the streets.

The committee recognizes that the issues facing our neighborhood apply to other neighborhoods in the town. We suggest that the town's new street tree committee address these high priority issues. For example, the town should explore an ordinance that will require the Town to replant trees when cutting down existing trees. Also, the town should apply for a tree planting grant from NYS DEC.

# Conclusion

First and foremost, the committee appreciates the efforts of Supervisor David Van Luven and Superintendent of Highways Marc Dorsey and their willingness to postpone the sidewalk project on Euclid to give time for the committee to reach out to neighborhood residents. Meeting with a group of residents to explain the initiative and then allowing residents to give input shows their commitment to the Bethlehem community.

When committee members went door to door to invite neighborhood residents to complete the survey, people expressed gratitude to be involved in the process and to be asked what they think. It is a sense of civility and mutual respect that defines our community and has been reflected in this process, and the committee thanks Bethlehem officials for that!

The survey respondents reflected residents' desire to maintain existing trees and sidewalks as-is, with the knowledge that any intervention risks damage to the roots and life of existing trees. Residents clearly see the trees as the defining element of our neighborhood.

The committee did not adequately anticipate this result, so didn't include "maintaining the sidewalks as-is" as an option on the survey questions. However, respondents took the opportunity to express this opinion in written survey comments and verbal comments to canvassers. For example:

"The unique and beautiful character of the neighborhood would be destroyed by putting in unnecessarily broad sidewalks. I strongly oppose the plan to take down trees. This will NOT improve our historic neighborhood."

Another illustrative comment the committee received was:

"As a handicapped individual, I have no problems when walking on the street. Neither do many other residents. Traffic is minimal (lets keep it that way) and the notion that we have to have wider sidewalks that will impact more mature trees does not make sense. We love our mature trees, which define our lovely neighborhood."

In addition to leaving the current sidewalks as-is to avoid shortening the life of healthy trees by unnecessarily cutting through their roots, many residents spoke about the importance of addressing existing trees that are unhealthy and present a safety risk. Residents would like to proactively institute a replanting program to maintain the integrity of the neighborhood street trees. One resident commented:

"My hope would be to stagger the removal of trees and undertake a robust tree planting program that many municipalities have to maintain the beautiful canopy we have on Euclid, Burhans Place and Salisbury. Requiring Street trees to be replanted when removals take place is the way to go. "

In summary, there is a strong attachment to the trees along these streets as they are what drew many residents to live here and enhance our daily lives. The comments suggest it would be prudent to postpone this project indefinitely. This would give the town the time and resources to address other neighborhoods that have the need for improved sidewalks (ideally including streets that do not have them and need them, such as Salisbury Rd.). Time and resources would be better spent assessing existing trees, removing dangerous limbs or (if necessary) trees, and instituting a replanting program, with the possibility of sidewalk replacement in the future. As one resident commented:

“The trees of Euclid, Burhans and Salisbury give character to the neighborhood, enhance property values and help to mitigate warming temperatures, and improve both air quality and quality of life. It's vital we maintain or as needed replace them”

# Appendix: Survey considerations and questions

The survey was posted on the webpage <https://normanside.org/trees.html>. The web page gives the background of our group and provides some benefits of street trees. Before the survey, questions, background information and “considerations” were posted for respondents to consider when filling out the survey. Below that, the survey was posted as a Google Form.

## Survey background information and considerations posted on web page

### **Survey background information**

Due to the degraded condition, the Town plans to replace the current blacktop sidewalks on Euclid Ave with new concrete sidewalks that are 5' wide, 1' wider than the current sidewalks. This change would make the new sidewalks ADA compliant and compatible with existing town snow plowing equipment. The Town intends to extend the existing sidewalk from where it terminates at Capitol to Yorkshire, but is willing to leave that stretch as it is if that is the neighborhood's preference.

Unfortunately, because the street trees on Euclid were planted in the easement (generally the land from the center of the street to the house side of the current sidewalks) and due to the way that modern sidewalks are constructed, there is no ideal solution for installing new sidewalks without harming the street trees. Initially, the Town's plan was to cut down all of the street trees on one side of Euclid Ave. and install new sidewalks in 2025, and then do the same on the opposite side the following year. After many residents spoke out, the Town delayed their plans until 2026.

Currently, a small group of neighborhood residents is working with the Town to understand the options for sidewalks and how those plans impact the neighborhood's trees. This group of neighbors will also seek out the opinions of other residents and convey them to Town officials.

The existing sidewalks on Burhans will also be replaced, but they are not as degraded, so that work will happen after the sidewalks on Euclid are finished. The Town also plans to upgrade the underground storm drainage pipes on Burhans prior to work on those sidewalks. The street trees on Burhans were planted outside of the easement, so the trees will not be affected by this construction.

There are no plans to replace the sidewalk on Capitol at this time. There are no plans to install new sidewalks on Salisbury because the Town has the goal of repairing existing sidewalks throughout Bethlehem before new ones are installed.

Below, we provide information to consider as you answer the questions. One consideration we'd like to highlight is that even if the street trees are left standing for now, installing a new sidewalk is likely to kill the trees within 2 to 5 years (according to an assessment of a New York DEC urban forestry expert) due to cutting through the tree roots. The Town plans to contract with an arborist to assess which, if any, trees are likely to survive this construction process.

Addresses are required when submitting the survey:

- because the responses of our neighbors who currently have sidewalks in front of their house on Euclid will be presented separately.
- so appropriate locations for replacement street trees can be identified.

**Considerations regarding WHERE new sidewalks should be installed on Euclid Ave.**

The first question in the survey is *where* sidewalks should be replaced. When you answer this question, please consider the following:

- As discussed below, installing a new sidewalk on either side of the street will likely cause harm to existing street trees or will require cutting them down entirely. For any tree that is removed, the Town will offer a replacement street tree to the homeowner or, if they do not want it, a neighbor.
- If only one side has a new sidewalk, it would be on the northeast side of the street (with even house numbers) because the water and gas mains run under the opposite side of the street.
- If one or both existing sidewalks are removed, they would be replaced with grass.
- If both sidewalks are removed, this may limit the movement of current or future residents with mobility issues, if they feel uncomfortable traveling in the street.

**Considerations regarding HOW new sidewalks should be installed on Euclid Ave.**

The second question in the survey is if one or both sides of Euclid get new replacement sidewalks, *how* should a new sidewalk be constructed? When you answer this question, please consider the following:

- Regarding options 1 and 2 in the survey, construction of concrete sidewalks requires digging down 18" below the surface. **Installation of a sidewalk is likely to kill adjacent street trees within 2 to 5 years by cutting through their roots**, based on the assessment of a NYS DEC urban forestry expert.

The Town plans to contract with an arborist to assess which trees, if any, are likely to survive this construction process. The Town is also investigating the use of a rubber-based sidewalk material which would not require as deep of a base layer.

- Regarding option 1 in the survey, the Town cautions that the grass next to a 44" wide sidewalk may be damaged when the Town plows the sidewalks in the winter. The narrowest plowing that the Town can do is 55" wide, which is the narrowest width the plow can be contracted to. The amount of damage to grass in the winter is expected to be similar to what occurs with the existing sidewalks.
- Regarding option 3 in the survey, if a street tree is cut down, then the homeowner will be offered a new street tree planted by the Town at no cost adjacent to the easement. See the street trees on Burhans for an example of what this would look like. Homeowners would be able to select the species of tree they want from several options offered by the Town.

# Survey questions

Full name \*

Your answer

Street address \*

Your answer

Email \*

Your answer

Phone (optional)

Your answer

How much do you approve of each option for WHERE new sidewalks should be installed on Euclid Ave.? IMPORTANT: Please read the considerations for this question above before answering!

	Strongly disapprove	Disapprove	Neutral	Approve	Strongly approve
Neither side (removing the existing sidewalks on both sides)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
On only one side (removing the existing sidewalk on the opposite side)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
On both sides of the street.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

If one or both sides of Euclid get new replacement sidewalks, how much do you approve of each option for HOW new sidewalks should be installed? IMPORTANT: Please read the considerations for this question above before answering!

Strongly disapprove   Disapprove   Neutral   Approve   Strongly approve

Install sidewalks at the same 44" width and in the same location as existing sidewalks.

☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐

Attempt to come to a legal agreement with all affected homeowners to extend the Town's easement by one additional foot, and if that is achieved then install 5' wide sidewalks adjacent to existing street trees.

☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐

Cut down existing street trees and install 5' wide sidewalks.

☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐

The Town has said it will plant a new street tree for every one it cuts down (whether for sidewalks or due to age). If the homeowner of the original tree doesn't want a replacement, the Town will plant a tree near the street on a neighboring yard or elsewhere in the neighborhood. Would you be interested in hosting a free replacement tree in your yard near the street?

- ☐ Yes, and it is ok to share my contact information with the Town.
- ☐ No
- ☐ Undecided/need more information

In the past, the Town had a street tree planting program in which it split the cost of the tree with the homeowner. Would you support the Town restarting such a program?

- ☐ Yes, I would consider having a tree planted in my yard.
- ☐ Yes, I support the Town's resources going to a street tree planting program, even though I wouldn't have one planted in my yard.
- ☐ No, I'd prefer that the town not plant street trees.
- ☐ Undecided/need more information

If the town does not reinstate a tree-planting program, a group of residents has been discussing a program to voluntarily plant street trees in the neighborhood. One option is to have a nursery plant trees (perhaps achieving a discounted group rate). Another option is to plant young, inexpensive tree "whips" ourselves. Would you be interested in participating in and/or volunteering for such an effort? Check all that apply.

- ☐ Host mature tree and pay a share of the cost
- ☐ Host a young tree "whip"
- ☐ Volunteer labor to plant whips
- ☐ Donate money to reduce costs for others to host trees
- ☐ Undecided/need more information

Comments or questions

Your answer

Submit

Clear form

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