



Tree Care, Allée Management

An allée is a path or drive lined with trees or tall shrubs with the intent of creating a designed approach. An important part of many historic properties, the long term care and treatment of an allée is critical for the proper interpretation of a site. The integrity of the allée is not based on individual trees but rather the relationship and density of all of the trees and shrubs that make up the allée.

Note: although identified for allée management the same basic guidelines for management apply for other large scale collections of linear plant material such as a hedge row.

Guidelines for Allée Management

- Develop a management plan for each allée in the collection. Each plan should include:
 - The history, evolution, and intent of the allée in both the original form and during the period of interpretation
 - An inventory and conditions assessment of the individual trees of the allée
 - Design dimensions of the original allée
 - Design precedents and regional comparisons
 - Are there other cultural features associated with the allée
 - Is there infrastructure associated with the allée
 - An assessment of the integrity of the current allée
 - Analysis of the different management strategies for the treatment of the allée
 - Recommendation of a treatment plan based on the analysis of the options
 - A strategy for the continuing maintenance of the allée as a unit
- If an allée management plan is to be implemented one should consider any other infrastructure improvements that might be useful at the same time.
- Continually monitor and maintain the individual trees and grading within the allée

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Tree Care: Allée Management

Technical Information for Allée Management

- Develop a management plan for each allée in the collection. Each plan should include:
 - The history, evolution, and intent of the allée in both the original form and during the period of interpretation. Some questions to ask include:
 - Did the feature grow organically?
 - Was the allée planted at once or in stages? Did it evolve over time?
 - Who designed the allée?
 - When was it planted?
 - What was intended by the construction of the allée? Framing viewsheds, framing the approach to a feature?
 - What is the setting and how does it affect the appearance and intent of the allée?
 - Identification of the original species, the current species and the species during period of interpretation
 - Were the trees and shrubs intended to be pruned (ie controlled)?
 - What was the age of the trees when first established?
 - What changes happened to the allée over time? How has the organization treated the feature during its time of ownership?
 - Has climate change affected the species?
 - What is the period of interpretation for the site and what was the appearance of the allée during that period?
 - Historic images and documentation to support
 - An inventory and conditions assessment of the individual trees of the allée
 - See the property care white paper series on tree care for details on inventory and assessment
 - Design dimensions of the original allée
 - Were the trees and shrubs intended to be a single row, double row, etc.
 - What was the intended height at the time of installation and over time
 - What was the intended spacing of the material
 - What was the intended scale of the overall feature
 - Design precedents and regional comparisons
 - Is the allée unique or are there design precedents
 - What other regionally local allées were designed at or around the same time
 - Are there other cultural features associated with the allée. Examples include but are not limited to:
 - Roads and paths
 - Walls and fences
 - Primary structures such as the estate house or other buildings like barns, garden houses, etc.
 - Structural elements like arbors, trellis or a garden folly
 - Sculptural elements

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- Is there infrastructure associated with the allée
 - Is there a water retention or distribution system – historic or modern
 - Is there a lighting system – historic or modern
- An assessment of the integrity of the current allée
 - Evaluate integrity based on: location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association
 - Has the allée deteriorated so much there is little integrity left?
 - What is the grading associated with the allée – historic and contemporary
 - Are there intrusions (power lines, etc) that compromise the integrity of the structure
 - Have new trees been added over the years so the allée currently is a mix of old and young trees?
 - Is it a healthy allée with strong integrity but is missing only a couple of trees?
- Analysis of the different management strategies for the treatment of the allée
 - The analysis should weigh the pros and cons of each approach based on sound preservation, environmental and economic realities
 - What is the core preservation approach and philosophy at the site
 - What are the different approaches based on the site philosophy
 - Do nothing
 - Total replacement
 - Infill one tree at a time
 - Other?
 - What specie or species of tree do we use to replant within the allée
 - What is the environmental impact
 - What are the infrastructure needs
 - What are the maintenance needs
 - What are the cost ramifications – installation and maintenance?
- Recommendation of a treatment plan based on the analysis of the options
- A strategy for the continuing maintenance of the allée as a unit
 - How often do we bring in an outside consultant to analyze the condition of the trees?
 - How do we prioritize work within the allée?
 - How do we treat gaps in the allée, current or future?
 - What specie or species of tree do we use to replant within the allée?
- If an allée management plan is to be implemented one should consider any other infrastructure improvements that might be useful at the same time.
 - Upgrading below-grade utilities
 - Burying utilities
 - Road or path work
 - Auxiliary features supporting the allée (structures, statuary, etc)
- Continually monitor and maintain the individual trees and grading within the allée