



PARKS, RECREATION & FORESTRY

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Street Tree Planting Program Fall, 2018

Our fall street tree planting program will be very modest this fall consisting of 119 trees. Of these trees, 65% are replacement trees the majority of which have resulted from the removal of ash trees due to the Emerald Ash Borer. We are continuing an aggressive approach of removing the unprotected ash trees which are increasingly showing signs of decline or have died from the effects of the borer. Our policy is to replace all trees that have been removed with the exception of sites that are lacking the room for a new tree or where utilities prohibit the planting. All efforts are made to replace the trees. The 2018 non-assessed tree budget will be exhausted this fall leaving 457 replacement trees unfunded. Using the current average cost per tree, 340 of those will be replaced in 2019 leaving 116 trees (25%) to be replaced in 2020. As new tree removals are scheduled, replacements trees will also be scheduled in 2020.

Our fall planting program will also consist of 10 new development plantings which is much lower than in recent years. These plantings will continue to be primarily in the Fox Lake Village and Howell Oaks Estates subdivisions. New home construction looks to have increased due to the level of building activity in these subdivisions, so we are expecting a higher number of new development plantings this spring. We have 30 project trees to plant as a result of the Motor and Fairview Ave re-construction project that was completed this summer.

Finding available trees from nurseries continues to be a challenge. The process of purchasing trees through a "growing agreement" to alleviate this problem was implemented this year. Those trees should be available in 2021. Species diversity is still a priority as well as quality nursery stock to ensure the continuation of a healthy urban forest facing various urban and environmental challenges.

Thank You For your continued support.

David Rauterberg
City Forester
Department of Parks, Recreation and Forestry

