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Street Tree Planting Program
Spring, 2018

Our spring street tree planting program will be will about average for spring consisting of 356 trees. Of these trees, 251 or 70% 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 with sites that are lacking the room for a new tree or where utilities prohibit the planting. All efforts are made to replace the trees.

Our spring planting program will also consist of 55 new development plantings. This is double the amount from last year. 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. We have 47 project trees to plant 34 of which have resulted from a WE Energies line voltage upgrade which is going on now on the eastern side of the city and 13 from a downtown road re-construction project on South St and Gaspar St which will be starting soon. Four park trees will be planted in River Hills Park.

Finding available trees from nurseries continues to be a challenge. Average price of trees has increased by 20% from last spring. The process of purchasing trees through a "growing agreement" to alleviate this problem will be implemented later this year. 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