



PARKS, RECREATION & FORESTRY

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Street Tree Planting Program Fall, 2019

Our fall street tree planting program will consist of a total of 186 trees. Of these trees, 68% 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 planting. All efforts are made to replace the trees. The 2019 non-assessed tree budget will be exhausted this fall leaving 598 replacement trees unfunded. Using a projected average cost per tree, 340 of those will be replaced in 2020 leaving 258 trees (43%) to be replaced in 2021. As additional trees are removed, replacement trees will then be scheduled for 2022.

Our fall planting program contains 55 new development plantings which is an increase over last year. These plantings are primarily in the Fox Lake Village, Howell Oaks Estates and Timber Ridge 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 next spring. We will be deferring project planting along the second phase of the Northview Rd reconstruction until next spring to coincide with possible park plantings adjacent to Meadowview Park.

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 last year. Some of those trees will be available in spring 2020. We will continue this program in the future. 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

