

PARKS, RECREATION & FORESTRY

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Street Tree Planting Program Spring, 2021

Our spring street tree planting program will be up slightly from last spring and will consist of approximately 400 trees. Of these trees, 328 or 82% are replacement trees, the majority of which have resulted from the removal of ash trees due to the Emerald Ash Borer. We are transitioning from removing unprotected ash trees to removing trees that have been treated, but which are increasingly showing signs of decline 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 preclude planting. All efforts are made to replace removed trees.

Our spring planting program will also consist of just 10 new development plantings. This is down significantly from last year. These plantings will be primarily in the Fox Lake Village and Howell Oaks Estates subdivisions. The current level of new home construction has slowed considerably, compared to activity observed in these subdivisions in previous years. We have 25-40 project trees to plant to enhance Park projects at both Buchner Park and Meadowview Park.

Finding available trees from nurseries continues to be a challenge. The average price of trees has decreased slightly from last spring, a result of price savings realized through our "Growing Agreements". 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!

Mike Talaska Forestry Supervisor Department of Parks, Recreation and Forestry



