



**Sun Prairie Department of Public Works
Parks & Forestry**

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To: Park, Recreation and Forestry Commission
CC: Lee Igl, Director of Public Works
From: Scott VanOmmeran, Parks & Forestry Supervisor

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Emerald Ash Borer Management Plan: Ash Tree Replacement: FAQ/ DISCUSSION

Will the City replace the street trees that are removed from the terrace?

DPW/ Parks & Forestry recommend developing a policy to replace parkway trees on a one-for-one basis as the tree removal schedule, tree availability and funding allows.

- With the exponential spread of EAB, the substantial loss of trees, current economic conditions, and tree availability it is very difficult to predict changes planting program.
- The replacement tree is planted at no cost to the homeowner.
- The city forester will decide if there is the appropriate amount of space available and an acceptable planting site is present.
- A new tree will not be able to be planted in same location due to tree stumps, roots and limited space due to terrace width and utilities.
- It is the City's goal to replant where possible.

How long do I have to wait for a replacement tree?

DPW/ Parks & Forestry recommend the tree replacement policy allow 1 to 3 years for a new tree to be replanted in a suitable planting site. Additional considerations:

- Allow for unforeseen changes to the tree planting program that cannot be predicted.
- When a tree is removed, the address is put on the bottom of the planting list and will be replaced chronologically.
- The number of trees planted each year may affect the 1-3 year replanting and replacement schedule.
- Unforeseen changes to tree costs, tree availability, funding and weather may affect tree planting.
- Trees are usually planted in the spring and fall seasons.

What will be the size of the replacement tree?

Replacement trees are usually 1"-2" inches in diameter. The City has chosen to replant this size of tree based on transplanting, survivability, cost, and labor.

Can I choose what type of tree will be replanted?

The City Forester will decide the type of tree to be replanted. The City currently has an approved street list provided to property owners interested in a street tree.

Available species on the list are chosen based on:

- Tree stock availability

- Viability of diversity of tree species.
- Appropriateness of terrace installation
- They have been chosen to diversify the urban forest and for proven success of tree species to survive in a variety of growing conditions and locations.

Why can't I choose the same tree as all of my neighbors?

Diversity is the key to creating an urban forest. As we learned with Dutch Elm Disease and are now learning with Emerald Ash Borer, planting a single species in mass numbers is a poor urban forestry practice that can have devastating effects.

Can I plant my own terrace tree?

The City's planting program could provide replacement trees to homeowners.

- The City forester staff will make the educated decision as to the type and quantity of tree that will be planted in the terrace.
- A street tree is city property.
- Proper selection, tree care and maintenance of street trees are the city's responsibility.
- It is important that the appropriate tree is selected for each and every site in the City's terraces.
- Forestry staff will work with homeowners as much as possible to select appropriate tree species and planting location.
- Staff will know the difference between a tree planted by the City and one planted by a homeowner.
- Homeowners wishing to plant a tree on their own in the terrace would need to complete a [request for planting in the terrace](#), choose a tree species off the [approved street tree list](#) and have all aspects approved by staff. After such approval, a request must be sent through [Digger's Hotline](#) to locate underground utilities, prior to planting.
- Refer the property owner to the tree donation policy.

Can I make a donation to have a tree planted?

Our current practice accepts donations from citizens to have a tree planted in our public landscape areas, parks and open space and street trees.

- We ask for \$ 150.00 donation that is placed in the Park Fund Arbor Day Tree Donations account.
- This donation covers the cost of the one (1) tree, not including planting and replacement costs.
- A donation tree is installed in the next available planting cycle, typically within 1 year of the donation.

Will the city reimburse me for a tree I have planted in the terrace?

No, the City will not reimburse for street tree planted by property owner.

Sincerely,

Scott VanOmmeran
Parks & Forestry Supervisor