



MEMORANDUM

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**DATE:** July 18, 2022

**TO:** Honorable Mayor and City Councilmembers  
Dave Perrault, City Administrator

**FROM:** David Swearingen, P.E. Public Works Director / City Engineer

**SUBJECT:** Tree Plan

Budgeted Amount:	Actual Amount:	Funding Source:
\$	\$	Park Fund – Tree Replacement funds

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**Council Should Consider**

Council should consider direction for a Tree Plan from the information presented.

**Background**

The City has established City Code 1325.055 Tree Preservation Subd. 1: to identify trees that are to be saved when development or land disturbing activity is occurring. It is the City's intent to protect, preserve, and enhance the natural environment of Arden Hills and to encourage a resourceful and prudent approach to development. The city council finds it is in the best interest of the city to protect, preserve, and enhance the natural environment of the community and to encourage a resourceful and prudent approach to development and property alteration.

Section 1325.055, Subd. 6, 3, d) States: Where tree replacement on-site is not practical and a suitable off-site location cannot be determined by the City, a fee in lieu thereof may be assessed for the replacement required. The fee amount shall be the cost of materials and installation tree, plus ten (10) percent, and shall be provided by the applicant and approved by the City. All funds collected shall be expended exclusively for implementation of the goals listed in Subd. 1 of this section.

To date, the City has collected \$115,440 in Tree Replacement funds. The intent of this discussion is to review the information provided and have Council direct staff on their vision of how and where these funds are to be used.

One location that has come up in previous discussions is TH-96. In 2006, the City of Arden Hills partnered with Ramsey County to add landscaping to TH-96, the landscaping plan can be seen in

Attachment A. The plan included 173 boulevard trees, it does not show the 40 trees that were existing just east of the project limits that staff identified through aerial photos from 2006. That brings the total trees in 2006 to 213, today there exists 139 trees. Therefore, over the last 16 years, there has been a loss of 74 trees or about 35%.

Recently, Public Works staff inspected the existing condition of the remaining trees along TH-96. Attachment B shows the trees that were identified to either monitor (7) or remove (26), the second sheet is a spreadsheet that correlates to each point on the map. A good portion of the trees have been identified with Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) disease, and most of the trees identified with EAB are at the early stages of disease. These Ash trees were measured at less than 8 inches so they were not included in the chemical injection treatment group performed in 2021. This is due to the mechanical wounding to the tree caused by the drilling. As the trees get larger, they tolerate the drilling every other year with no problem but, the smaller they are, the more invasive the treatment is. There is however the option to apply an annual ground treatment for existing Ash trees along TH-96 performed in the Fall. After speaking with Rainbow Tree Care, the cost would be about \$35 per tree. There are currently about 50 Ash trees (including EAB identified trees) along TH-96 that would qualify for this treatment (total cost for this treatment would be \$1,750). The other approach Council could choose would be to remove all trees identified with EAB and begin growing a new tree in its place.

Other locations considered for planting new trees is Perry Dog Park (possibly 4 trees), Thom Court median turnaround (1 tree), Oak Avenue median turnaround (2 trees). With direction from tonight's discussion, staff will pursue executing a project this year as long as there is tree inventory available. In a future project, staff would look at locations to apply our "buddy tree" program where we would plant trees near other trees that are declining in health.

### **Discussion**

- Council's vision for the tree plan.
- Species of trees that would be chosen are identified as resistant to disease and performs well in boulevard environments and deicing operations. Staff is still researching the specific species, but the planting strategy would be to choose a variety of species to avoid any certain disease from affecting a large number of trees in the future.

### **Budget Impact**

A 3-inch caliper tree ranges from \$500-\$800 to install. Council could choose to order larger trees but the cost increases with increased size.

Tree bags cost about \$25 per bag and could be ordered for each new tree. All the bags the City currently owns are being utilized on existing trees.

### **Attachments**

Attachment A – 2006 TH-96 Landscaping Plan

Attachment B – Public Works Tree Inspection