



## MEMORANDUM

To: Mayor Bowlin and City Council Members

From: Rick C. Brown, Director of Public Works / City Engineer

Date: March 5, 2019

Re: Resolution Authoring and Amending the City Street Tree Removal and Replacement Policy

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As you may recall, this item was discussed at the City Council Work Session on March 11, 2019, whereby the Council approved the preparation of legislation to adopt an amended policy on Street Tree Removal and Replacement.

### **Background**

Each year, with the objective of retaining healthy, attractive street trees, the Department removes and replaces several dozen existing street trees that have died from disease, storm damage, or other reasons, at considerable expense to the City. Under the policy, the Department will remove and replace an eligible street tree at no cost to the property owner, assuming the property owner agrees to water the new tree. The cost to remove a dead street tree and grind the stump can cost about \$1,000. The cost to plant a new tree generally runs about \$300-\$500 per tree. We have about 9,000 street trees within the City of Wildwood.

It is important to note that in the next five (5) years, we anticipate our costs for street tree removal and replacement to increase significantly as the emerald ash borer spreads through Wildwood and kills all ash trees. Due to the emerald ash borer, we expect to replace over 1,200 ash trees that line our streets at a cost that will likely exceed \$1,000,000.

Therefore, to provide clarity and address concerns that have arisen with the existing policy, the Department has developed a revised policy (see **Exhibit 1**) with the following changes:

- Re-Planting - Street trees will be replaced only twice. The first replanting will be at the expense of the City. If the tree dies after replanting, a second replanting will be approved if the homeowner or HOA agrees to pay half the cost for the replacement tree.
- Size - New street trees shall be a minimum of 2 to 2.5-inch caliper at 6 inches above the root.
- Tree Lawn Width - Street trees will not be replanted where the tree lawn width is 3 feet or less.

### **Recommendation**

The Department is recommending approval of **Resolution 2019-18**, which will adopt the amended street tree policy attached as **Exhibit 1**.

I will be available for any questions or comments at the April 8, 2019 work session of the City Council.

RCB

**Exhibit 1 – Proposed Policy**  
**(Changes are shown in “red”)**

August 27, 2007

**City Street Tree Removal and Replacement Policy**

It is a City Goal to maintain neighborhoods with exceptional curb appeal. To achieve this goal, it is an objective of the Department of Public Work so retain healthy, attractive street trees within the City's street network. Each year, it becomes necessary to remove certain trees due to storm damage, disease or other causes. In such instances, this Department Policy establishes the procedures for street tree removal, replacement and restoration within the City right-of-way:

1. Definition, Street Tree: A woody plant that grows mostly upright as a single or multi-stem that may eventually attain a height of fifteen feet or more, and that was planted within the City right-of-way by the City of Wildwood, or by others as specifically required by the City of Wildwood Subdivision and Development Regulations on streets dedicated to the City of Wildwood for maintenance.
2. Only Street Trees as defined under this policy are subject to the procedures of the policy. Trees planted without the approval of the City of Wildwood are not the City's responsibility.
3. Once the Department is advised of a street tree requiring removal and replacement, the Superintendent of Streets shall inspect the street tree to determine if it is eligible for removal and replacement under this policy.
4. If a street tree is determined to be an immediate public safety hazard, the hazard shall be eliminated within 24 hours.
5. If a street tree is determined to be generally eligible for removal and replacement, the removal of the tree shall be prioritized and scheduled accordingly.
6. Tree removal shall include the removal of the entire tree to a depth 8 inches below grade. The removal location shall be restored with grass seed and fertilizer. The adjacent homeowner shall water the restoration area to establish new turf.
7. A new street tree shall be planted at a location as close to the old tree location as practical, unless otherwise agreed to by the City of Wildwood. New tree locations shall not interfere with existing traffic signs, street lights or other existing structures authorized in the right-of-way.
8. The new street tree species shall be selected by the City of Wildwood and shall follow any existing planting scheme for the street or neighborhood. If no planting scheme exists, the City shall seek the input of the adjacent property owner on the selection of the new street tree species. The new street tree species shall be listed on the **attached Exhibit 1**. Species not on the list may be used with approval from the Director of Planning and **Director of Public Works**.
9. Replacement street trees shall be planted between October 15<sup>th</sup> and May 15<sup>th</sup>.
10. The adjacent homeowner shall provide watering, pruning and other general care to ensure the vitality of the newly planted street tree.
11. **Street trees will be replaced only two times by the City. The first tree replacement will be completed at the expense of the City. If the first replacement tree dies, the City will replace the tree for a second time if the homeowner (or HOA) is responsible for half the cost of the replacement.**
12. **New street trees shall be a minimum of 2 to 2.5-inch caliper at 6 inches above the root.**
13. **Street trees will not be replanted where the tree lawn width is 3 feet or less.**

*(Re-adopted October 11, 2010)*

## Exhibit 1

### List of Acceptable Species for Street Tree Plantings

Bald Cypress	Pin Oak
Callery Pear (No Bradford)	Red Maple
Corktree	Red Oak
Flowering Dogwood	Redbud
Ginko	Sugar Maple
Hackberry	Swamp White Oak
Honeylocust, Thomis	Yellowwood
Japanese Pagoda	Washington Hawthorn
Katsuratree	Willow Oak
Kentucky Coffeetree	Winter King Hawthorn
Kousa Dogwood	Zelkova
Littleleaf Linden	

**RESOLUTION #2019-18**

**A RESOLUTION OF THE OF THE CITY OF WILDWOOD, MISSOURI, AMENDING  
THE CITY STREET TREE REMOVAL AND REPLACEMENT POLICY OF THE CITY**

**WHEREAS**, the City has around 9,000 residential street trees planted along city streets within City rights-of-way; and

**WHEREAS**, the City values healthy and attractive street trees for their numerous positive impacts including the enhancement of property values; and

**WHEREAS**, each year, the Department of Public Works removes and replaces several dozen existing street trees that have died from disease, storm damage, or other reasons, at considerable expense to the City; and

**WHEREAS**, the City's costs to remove and replace street trees is expected to increase significantly in the coming years due to the emerald ash borer infestation which is expected to kill all ash street trees.

**NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF WILDWOOD, MISSOURI, AS FOLLOWS:**

**Section One.** That the City Council does hereby adopt the amended City Street Tree Removal and Replacement Policy for the City of Wildwood. A copy of this Policy document is attached hereto as Exhibit A and incorporated by reference herein.

**Section Two.** This Resolution shall be in full force and effect from and after its passage and approval.

PASSED AND RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF WILDWOOD THIS \_\_\_\_\_  
DAY OF \_\_\_\_\_, 2019.

CITY OF WILDWOOD

BY: \_\_\_\_\_  
The Honorable James R. Bowlin, MAYOR

ATTEST:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Amanda Foster, CITY CLERK

August 27, 2007

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