



# City Council Policy: CP216 - Planting, Maintenance, Removal and Replacement of Trees

Effective Date: February 18, 2025

Amends: August 7, 1995

Approved By: City Council

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## I. SCOPE

## II. PURPOSE

A. To provide for the planting, maintenance, removal and replacement of trees indigenous to the area.

## III. RESPONSIBILITY

A. Director of Public Works

## IV. DEFINITIONS

## V. POLICY

A. The City regulates the planting, maintenance, removal and replacement of City planted trees located on City owned property, right-of-way and easements granted by the City.

## VI. PROCEDURES

### A. Planting

1. The City may plant suitable trees on City owned property, right-of-way and easements granted by the City to enhance the beauty and usefulness of the City
2. No species other than those included in the current Prairie Village approved tree list may be planted without written permission of the Director of Public Works, except in special plantings designed or approved by the City arborist or landscape architect.
3. No trees other than those species listed as small trees may be planted:
  - a.) Under or within 15 lateral feet of any overhead utility wire; or
  - b.) Over or within 15 lateral feet of any underground water line, sewer line, transmission line or other utility.
4. No trees may be planted closer, as measured trunk to trunk, than the following:
  - a.) Small trees, 30 feet;
  - b.) Medium trees, 40 feet;
  - c.) Large trees, 50 feet;
  - d.) Except in special plantings designed or approved by the City landscape architect.
5. No trees may be planted closer to any curb or sidewalk than three feet as measured from the center of the tree planting pit.
  - a.) The City may plant trees on private property with the permission of the property owner.
6. The property owner shall be responsible for watering, restoring mulch, maintaining the staking for City planted trees for a period of one year.
  - a.) After one year the staking shall be removed.
7. Replacement trees shall be a minimum of 1 ½ inch caliper (D.B.H.) and planted in the same relative location.

### B. Maintenance

1. The property owner shall water, fertilize, trim, spray and provide proper tree maintenance on any City planted tree.
  2. The Director of Public Works may direct the trimming of trees for the convenience of the City where it is deemed advisable, e.g., in preparation for use of heavy equipment on the streets for overlay work, street light improvements, or other uses.
  3. The Director of Public Works may direct the removal of broken branches that are hanging so as to hit motor vehicles or pedestrians. The property owner is responsible to remove other hanging broken branches not immediately impeding the movement of motor vehicles or pedestrians.
  4. The Director of Public Works shall see that trees on City property, e.g., City Hall, parks, etc. are properly trimmed, sprayed, watered, and otherwise maintained.
  5. Any exceptions to this section must be approved by the City Council.
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### **C. Removal**

1. Diseased and/or dead trees on City owned property, right-of-way and easements granted by the City may be removed at the City's expense.
2. The party who removes a tree will be responsible to remove the stump and to fill the hole.
3. Live, healthy trees that are a nuisance or a hazard, may be removed from City owned property, right-of-way and easements granted by the City at the discretion of the Director of Public Works.
  - a.) The property owner may request removal, because the tree is an "undesirable" species such as "hedge apple", thorny locust, cottonwood, mulberry, etc. The cost of removal shall be borne by the property owner. The property owner must arrange in advance to replace the tree in the same relative location at no expense to the City. The tree shall be of the approved caliper, species and approved location.
4. The Director of Public Works will not remove any tree(s) from private property.

### **D. Replacement**

1. Whenever a tree is removed, it shall be replaced by the City, at the discretion of the Director of Public Works.
2. Replacement may take place no later than the next appropriate planting season.
3. Replacement trees shall be planted in, as near as possible, the original location.