

Frequently Asked Questions:
Public Works Forestry:
Street Trees for Single Family New Home
Development

November, 2014



What is the program?

For the continued enjoyment of the community, and to ensure our tree canopy remains strong and diverse, new trees are planted in the public right-of-way during all new housing development. In the past, this process has been managed by the local developers, in partnership with homeowners. While developers are still welcome to manage the details of tree planting for their development projects, they also now have the option of using the City's forestry division for the planting. There has been no change in the guidelines or restrictions of planting trees in public right-of-ways during development, merely the additional option to give this role to the City.

How do developers alert the City if they would like to request the forestry division's services?

Please contact City Arborist Todd Fagan at 319-286-5616 with questions regarding this program or other Forestry services.

Can developers choose this option on an individual project basis?

Developers need to let the City know if they'd like to use the forestry division each time they bring in a building permit.

How is the fee for the tree determined?

The city tree planting fee is determined by finding the average tree planting cost from the most recent Reforestation CIP (Capital Improvement Project) program. It is re-evaluated yearly and will rise and fall with the market.

When is payment requested?

Payment is requested at the time the permit is issued. If you decide to plant the tree yourself, you will not be charged for a tree.

Can I change my mind later and pay the City to plant the tree at a later date?

You may come back in and pay for a tree to be planted by the City up to one week before the final inspection for certificate of occupancy is requested.

If I pay the City for a tree, can I get a refund if I change my mind later?

No. Once you request the City to plant the tree, there are no refunds. Exceptions will be made by the City Arborist during the planting bid preparation process. If a tree can't be planted due to space limitations or other site characteristics, the funds for the tree planting will be returned.

When will the tree be planted?

The trees will be added to the next Reforestation CIP. Permits originating from January through July will usually be installed that fall. Permits originating from July through December will usually be planted the

following spring. Spring planting typically takes place between April and June. Fall planting typically takes place between October through early November.

Is planting a tree optional?

A street tree is required as part of the city code (Ch. 32.05.030.A.4.b.iii). This ensures development growth does not outpace a strong urban canopy.

Can the resident request the tree species?

Yes. However, the request must meet the parameters for the planting, as outlined on the City website (www.cedar-rapids.org). The request must also be made prior to the start of the bid preparation process. This is typically in July for the fall planting and in January for the spring installation.

How big will the trees be?

The height will vary with species, but the diameter will be approximately 2 inches or larger.

Will the homeowner be notified before the tree is planted?

Yes. A letter will be sent out in advance of the planting process. The curb will be marked with a white "T" that notes the approximate location of the new tree. A second letter will be sent out after planting, providing residents with care instructions. Trees for Single Family New Homes will receive a gator bag to assist with watering and a 1-year warranty.

Who can I contact with any questions?

Any questions regarding this program should be directed to City Arborist Todd Fagan.

Todd Fagan

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