



MEMO

PLANNING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

To: Plan Commission
From: Dave Kittel, Director of Planning and Community Development
Date: 6/12/2025
Re: Tree planting Thelen and Field Crest Park

Background information:

Some trees have slowly been dying in Thelen and Field Crest Park. Some is due to age, storms and various bugs/disease. Staff would like to move forward with replanting the trees that are no longer viable at Thelen and Field Crest parks.

Thelen park has lost about 4 maple trees and one larger oak tree on the property. Due to there being an abundance of maple trees in this area and the park staff would like to replant 5 trees with a variety of species based on the list of approved trees in the City. The exact species will be determined based on availability, but planting 1 oak or hickory (something that grows taller with large canopy) along the rear of the property and either Kentucky Coffeetree or Ginko trees along the street area. In total 5 trees to be replaced at Thelen Park.

Field Crest Park has 5 trees to be replaced and proposed to add 2 additional trees in the back of the park to allow for a buffer and shade areas in the park. The trees to be planted will be based off availability, a few different species will be planted to ensure diversity of species.

Staff would also like to propose a tree planting policy to help speed up the process for tree planting when it is only a replacement or minor addition to a park to be able to better

maintain the parks provide a specific process. Attached is a draft version of a policy for additional information.

Strategic Plan:

Maintaining the canopy and adding trees directly links to being a sustainable community, community of choice and helps with beautification of the municipality.

Budget:

The trees are planned for in normal operating budget.

Recommendation:

To approve the replacement and addition of trees at Thelen and Fieldcrest park and direct staff to finalize a policy and take it through the appropriate approval process.

