

Attachment B. 3-Year Tree Maintenance Plan Template for Newly Planted Trees

LUG: City of Marshall

Year and Season of Planting: Fall of 2024 - Fall of 2026

Project Coordinator: Preston Stensrud

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of Trees to be Planted: 150

Size (caliper for deciduous, height for conifers): 1.5-2"

Type of Stock to be Planted (Bare root, etc.): Containers

Describe how the activities below will be completed.

1. Tree Maintenance Personnel

- a. Describe who is responsible for maintenance.

Preston Stensrud, Park and Recreation Superintendent for the City of Marshall oversees all the maintenance of existing trees and newly planted trees in the parks and other green spaces throughout the community. This would consist of pruning, watering, tree removals, new plantings, etc.

The trees as part of the reimbursement portion on low income properties will be inspected by Preston and/or trained staff prior to reimbursement being approved to make sure proper planting guidelines were

- b. Volunteers, homeowners, or inexperienced staff that will provide maintenance should receive basic training and literature on proper maintenance techniques. Is training needed and how will you do it?

All staff and volunteers(if used) will be training on tree planting techniques by Superintendent Stensrud. The City of Marshall also has a guide to planting trees available that we will give to all property owners doing plantings as well as inspections of the planted trees. Staff can also demonstrate to interested parties when planting trees on City property to show proper techniques.

- c. How will you inspect tree maintenance work periodically to make sure it is being done correctly?

Preston and staff will inspect and review all trees on a regular basis to assign maintenance tasks or to see what maintenance might be done. We recently completed a tree inventory via GIS map and can utilize this map for maintenance to help make work orders and track maintenance we have done with numerous drop downs in the mapping to allow for easy sorting and tracking.

2. Tree Watering Process

Describe in detail how trees will be watered, the time period and frequency of watering. Trees should be watered weekly for the first 3 to 5 years when the ground is thawed, unless it has rained 1 inch in a week.

For the first 2 years of growing new trees are watered twice a week utilizing tree watering bags if no rain is received. After year 2, we water as needed for the next several years depending on precipitation and weather patterns. We have numerous seasonal staff that assist in watering all trees on a regular basis. The Parks Department utilizes a water truck and also a water trailer to make sure trees are receiving proper watering.

3. Mulching Trees

Will you mulch your trees and if so, how will you maintain mulch?

We have found mulching trees to be very beneficial and we continually add mulch as needed throughout the first three years after planting. We have staff the does new mulching throughout the spring and summer season in all of our parks. Normally make a dike approximately 12-15" away from the base of the tree with dirt during planting and then follow up with adding 3-4" of mulch on top of and around the tree but keeping the mulch slightly away from the trunk to prevent excess moisture and decay around base of the tree.

4. Staking and Tying Trees

Explain if staking is necessary due to mowing, vandalism, or wind conditions, and describe plans for inspection and removal.

We have staked many of our trees in the past using a 3 sided approach and using a piece of rubber to protect the tree so the guidelines don't damage the bark. Usually this is needed due to our high winds in Marshall. After 2 years these are removed. We make sure the support lines and stakes are still taut and not damaging the trees is part of our normal inspection process and make any adjustments as needed with staff.

5. Checking Tree Health

The grantee will check trees every 6 – 12 months to identify and address problems. Describe inspection process and follow-up.

Checking on the health of the trees is very critical to sustainability and is done often. Inspection will consist of checking on the guidelines, moisture content, diseases, mulch, any broken limbs, etc. Preston will then assign staff to correct any issues based on the inspection of these trees.

6. Tree Protection

Young trees in busy urban areas may be easily damaged by human activity, animals, and equipment. Describe how planted trees will be protected.

In the past we haven't experienced many of these issues, however, should any issues arise, Preston will make sure to address the appropriately. All trees are mulched around and have a protective sleeve around the stem of the tree for the first 2-3 years.

7. Pruning

Newly planted trees should need little pruning, if they were properly cared for in the nursery. In the first year after planting, remove only dead or broken branches. In later years, weakly attached limbs can be removed, and corrective pruning can be done if needed. Describe your pruning maintenance cycle.

Our practice is to only trim out broken branches and dead branches until the second or third year. Once the trees are established and growing at a steady rate we would then focus on trimming out branches that are weak or growing in a way that may lead to later damage or breakage. No heavy pruning occurs until the trees have grown enough to possibly have the lower limbs become a factor in mowing, or clearance of vehicles and pedestrians.

8. Tree Warranty

Tree planting should include a warranty from the nursery for replacement (due to poor condition or mortality). The grantee should be prepared to fully replace all trees that are in poor condition or die prior to inspection at the end of the project grant agreement, unless loss was due to natural disaster. Describe your tree warranty or how trees will be replaced.

All trees purchased as part of the project will have a 2 year warranty with the nursery we work with on a daily basis for all of our planting, we feel we have a very strong working relationship with the nursery and have no concerns about warranty being an issue.