



AGENDA ITEM MEMORANDUM

DATE: 5/12/2025

TO: Public Works Committee

FROM: Tim Bull – City Forester

SUBJECT: New tree planting appeal – 3101 S 20th Street

Municipal code Section 56-23 Appeal

Any person who objects to proposed parkway tree planting may appeal to the public works committee within ten days of publication of the notice. The public works committee shall hear such appeal within 30 days of receipt of written notice of appeal. After such hearing the committee shall notify the appealing party of its decision.

ISSUE

A new street tree is scheduled to be planted in the right of way adjacent to this property. The property owner prefers to not have a tree planted. The Public Works Committee needs to decide if the tree is planted at the location or not.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommend the tree is planted at the proposed location.

BACKGROUND/DISCUSSION

The City of Sheboygan's urban forest provides an annual benefit of around \$3 million, this in part includes: reduced stormwater runoff, reduced summer cooling costs, cleaner air and water, and reduced crime.

The City Forester is tasked with evaluating street-by-street all public right-of-way and public area space and site factors which aid in the determination of the tree genus and species and variety best suited to a particular planting site in regard to growth habits, shape, form, health, disease, insect and pest resistance, conflict with wires, lights, pavement, traffic, pedestrians, sidewalks, environmental pollution, sewers and space availability.

South 20th street was evaluated for Spring 2025 tree planting and all available tree planting sites were assigned a specific tree species suitable for their location.



DEPARTMENT OF
PUBLIC WORKS

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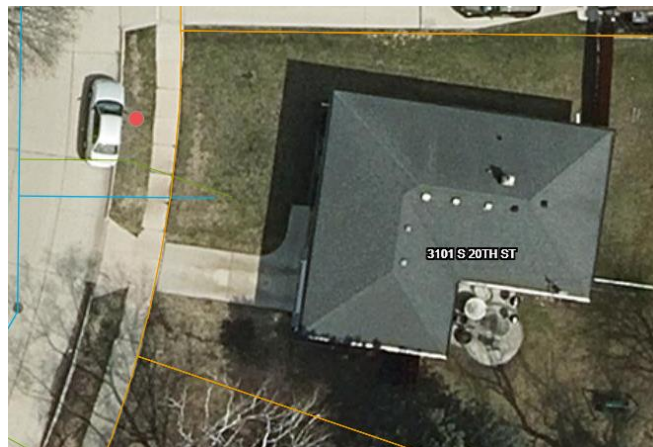
AGENDA ITEM MEMORANDUM (CONT.)

Proposed planting site is 18' away from the driveway, and 10' away from the sewer lateral. (10' is the minimum distance suggestion)

The proposed tree species is a Scarlet Fire Dogwood which matures with an oval shaped canopy reaching 20 feet tall and 18 feet wide.

Reasons listed in the appeal letter for not wanting a tree and reasons the City Forester supports having a tree:

- Does not want to have to cut the grass around the tree
 - A tree is not much different than a street light or fire hydrant with regards to how grass can be maintained around them.
- Does not want the sidewalk damaged from tree
 - This is a small tree at maturity and it is highly unlikely the sidewalk will be damaged from this tree.
- Concerned a new tree will cause allergy problems
 - If there is a history of dogwood allergies, an alternative species could be selected: Robin Hill Serviceberry, Adirondack Crabapple, Nannyberry, City Sprite Zelkova, or Tupelo Tower Black Tupelo
- Doesn't want to rake the leaves
 - Trees offer more benefits than negatives, this is a small tree and will not be very challenging to clean up.
- Believes it is not right or fair to not give the adjacent property owner the choice in having a street tree or not.
 - The appeal process provides adjacent property owners the chance to voice their opinions and concerns as to why a tree is not a good fit next to their property. The city forester has selected an appropriate species to be planted at this available planting site. It is up to the Public Works Committee to decide if the tree is planted based on the circumstances.



FUNDING IMPACT

There is no funding impact with this decision.



AGENDA ITEM MEMORANDUM (CONT.)

NEXT STEPS:

If approved to plant the tree at this location, they will be planted within 10 days by the Forestry Division.

If not approved for planting the tree at this location, it will be planted in October at an alternate location to be determined by the Forestry Division.