

**INFORMATIONAL STAFF REPORT**

**TO:** THE HONORABLE MAYOR AND MEMBERS OF THE CITY COUNCIL  
**MEETING DATE:** NOVEMBER 3, 2024  
**FROM:** DAN LAFONTAINE, PUBLIC WORK DIRECTOR  
**SUBJECT:** TREES IN DOWNTOWN PROJECT

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**RECOMMENDATION:** Staff is presenting this tree planting plan to recommend locations to add trees in the downtown parking lot area. Staff are requesting direction on the location of the trees to benefit the City and the environment.

**BACKGROUND:** Trees possess the ability to provide shade, control erosion, buffer noise, and help improve our air quality. Trees also have roots that infiltrate our storm drains and sewer mains and must be controlled to avoid costly repairs. The location of planted trees must be planned carefully to minimize any adverse effects of the tree root system. Trees must have space to grow and not be installed around underground utilities and far enough away from roads to ensure the root system does not lift the road or sidewalks.

**DISCUSSION:** Staff recommend the installation of trees at the parking lot on Gopher flat in between Mill Street and Tucker Hill Rd. A line of 5 (five) Crape Myrtle trees are currently installed on the Gopher flat frontage area. There appears to be enough room to add 3 (three) more Crape Myrtle trees to complete this tree line. Trees would be matched with the existing trees to maintain consistency and provide additional shade. The approximate tree placement locations are presented below:



**BUDGET IMPACT:** This project cost is minimal, costs could be absorbed into the budget or funded through the use of volunteers and donations.. This project will have ongoing maintenance costs associated with the maintenance of tree limbs near City roads. Some water will be required to establish the root system at a minimal cost (additional water usage less than \$50 per month). It is anticipated that after the tree roots are established due to the shallow groundwater level in the region that water usage will be minimal and limited to summer months if required.