

## Parks, Recreation, and Forestry Department

To: Parks, Recreation, and Forestry Commission

From: Kristine Butteris, Director of Parks, Recreation, and Forestry

Date: March 17, 2025

Subject: Process for Downed Trees Proposal

### Background

During Forestry's busy season, we are responsible for the removal of 100 plus trees within the community for various reasons including dead, dying or disease. We also remove undesirable trees in undesirable locations as well as homeowner request with a suitable reason.

When trees come down in the terrace area, we ask the property owner if they would like the logs. If they do not, we chip up branches and smaller logs and then take the rest of the 20" or larger pieces to the yard waste site for public to use. This size log is too big for the chipper and often too large for homeowners to manage. When we remove trees on public property we do the same as with the terrace trees.

We are looking to create a process for selling 20" or larger logs of desirable trees only as they would otherwise go to yard waste and rot. This comes as a potential revenue source for the forestry department and the City.

### Desirable Tree List

Black Walnut

Catalpa

Cherry

Sugar Maple

Norway Maple

Honeylocust

Green Ash

White Ash

Basswood

Apple varieties

## Budget Goal

Proactively maintains and improves our parks and infrastructure to ensure safety, quality, and equity

Fosters community growth by assessing opportunities, stakeholder input, environmental needs, and modern code and policy priorities

## Financial Impact

No negative financial impact. Additional revenue for the city.

## Recommendation

We would like a positive recommendation from the Parks, Recreation, and Forestry Commission to move forward with creating a Downed Trees Policy so that the Forestry Department and the City can gain potential income on tree logs that would otherwise rot after removal.

Motion: to have the Parks, Recreation, and Forestry Department draft a Downed Trees Policy for sale of desirable logs of 20" or larger.

## 2025 Operational Goals

The purpose of our operational goals is to identify, prior to the budgeting process, what work the city intends to achieve in 2025. The goals should align with our mission. Not only will the operational goals inform budget prioritization, but they will also guide the creation of the 2025 Department Work Plans.

*Present a budget that (in no particular order):*

1. Invests in the strategic planning and maintenance of our city buildings
2. Proactively maintains and improves our parks and infrastructure to ensure safety, quality, and equity
3. Supports employee retention and growth, while also evaluating operations and the associated staffing

4. Fosters community growth by assessing opportunities, stakeholder input, environmental needs, and modern code and policy priorities
5. Maintains a safe and healthy community, with an eye toward future needs and trends