

**Council Meeting Date:  
Regular City Council Meeting November 9, 2022**

**Agenda Item Cover Sheet**

**Agenda Item Subject/Title:**

Discuss and Take Appropriate Action to Allocation of Resources for Oak Wilt Containment and Removal of Diseased and Dying Trees on Stonehouse Circle and the Planting of New Oak Wilt Resistant Trees.

**Agenda Item Summary:**

Several residents on Stonehouse Circle are experiencing the decline of trees due to Oak Wilt in that area and have expressed interest in the Oak Wilt assistance program. With these needs in mind, and the understanding that the issue is widespread in this area, Councilmember Hines would like this area to be considered for the next annual beautification project.

Plan:

- 1) Oak Trees on all lots fronting Stonehouse Circle will be tested and inspected for Oak Wilt
- 2) Dead trees in this areas will be removed
- 3) Trees determined at risk may be treated to encourage Oak Wilt resistance
- 4) Trees contaminated with Oak Wilt, but not determined to be treatable should be removed.
- 5) Each house will receive one replacement tree of a species that is NOT susceptible to Oak Wilt

Depending on the degree of Oak Wilt devastation this plan may have to occur in phases.

Final costs will be determined for each part of the plan listed above including the appropriate amount of bids. Council could set caps for the cost of each part of the project and/or consider a method of fundraising and/or cost-sharing with residents.

At this time, Council would simply be authorizing the plan to proceed with the initial steps of contacting owners, asking for permission to enter properties and take pictures, and seeking Oak Wilt testing to determine the state of contamination in the area.

Since this on private property it does not directly fall under the jurisdiction of the Tree Board since they are designated to cover public property specifically. However, volunteers from that Board could assist with distributing communication, collecting data, and project management.

**Financial Impact:**

unknown at this time.

**Recommendations:**

Recommend that Council approve of and proceed with the first step of the plan: contact residents to seek permission to enter properties and collection specimens for Oak Wilt testing in addition to securing bids for such testing should a cost be determined. Send a request for Tree Board members to volunteer assistance if they are interested.

**Supporting Documents Included:**

none

**Submitted by:** Councilmember Debra Hines