

## **FORT PIERRE TREE REMOVAL AND REPLACEMENT AND ASH TREE TREATMENT POLICY**

### **PURPOSE:**

To establish a policy for the proper removal and replacement of trees that will create and maintain a health and vibrant tree inventory within the City and surrounding area.

### **SUPPORTING ORDINANCES:**

- K-4 RIGHTS-OF-WAY: PARKING AND BOULEVARD AREAS
- K-4-3 TREES AND SHRUBBERY IN PARKING
- L-2 WEEDS AND TREES
- L-2-5 TRIMMING OF TREES REQUIRED – CITY TRIMMING AT OWNER’S EXPENSE
- L-2-6 DECLARATION OF POLICY ON REMOVAL OF DEAD OR DISEASED TREES
- L-2-15 ASSESSMENT OF COST OF ABATEMENT

### **DEFINITIONS:**

For the purpose of this policy the following definitions apply. If a particular word or phrase is not listed, refer to the City Ordinances or Legal Dictionary.

“Parking and Boulevard Areas”: That area between the street and the adjacent private property of an improved street right of way.

“Right of Way”: land dedicated to the public for the purpose of street, sidewalk and recreational trail construction and public transportation use.

“Public Property”: Land area that is owned, dedicated for public use to, or under the control of the City of Fort Pierre.

### **TREE REMOVAL:**

Annually the Public Works Department, in conjunction with the City Arbor Board, shall inspect and review the tree inventory on Public Property and right of ways for the City and shall prepare a list of dead, dying, diseased trees and nuisance trees to be removed. Other trees may also be selected for removal to prevent the spread of insects and diseases that may impact the overall health of the City’s tree inventory.

Trees to be removed from public property, which include city parks, boat ramps, sports fields, recreational trails, recreational areas, and other City owned properties shall be authorized by the Public Works Department prior to removal. Normal bidding or proposal procedures shall be followed for selecting of a removal contractor.

Trees to be removed by the City from the Right of Ways, which include boulevards adjacent to streets and alley ways, street islands and unimproved platted right of ways, shall be authorized by the Public Works Department prior to removal. Normal bidding or proposal procedures shall be followed for selecting of a removal contractor.

## **TREE REPLACEMENT:**

Annually the Public Works Department, in conjunction with the City Arbor Board, shall select trees to plant in the various locations around the City for the benefit of the community and the tree inventory. A "Tree Planting Plan" showing location and species shall be prepared and approved by the Public Works Department prior to planting of the trees. Normal bidding or proposal procedures shall be followed for procuring and planting the trees.

Planting of trees in right of ways shall be avoided unless adequate space is provided and the tree, fully grown, will not interfere with the installation and maintenance of utilities, sidewalks, recreational trails curb and street pavements. Prior to planting of any tree in the right of ways, the location and species shall be approved by the Public Works Department. This includes the parking and boulevard areas adjacent to private property.

Replacement of trees removed for the purpose of preventing the spread of insects and disease on public property shall be included in the above mentioned "Tree Planting Plan".

Replacement of trees removed for the purpose of preventing the spread of insects and disease in the parking and boulevard areas adjacent to private property, may be placed on any private property with the permission of the property owner or on public property with the permission of the public works department.

A voucher in the amount of \$150 per tree, may be provided to the property owner for 3" DBH and larger trees removed for the purpose of controlling the spread of insects and disease that are in the boulevard area of the street right of way, adjacent to owner's property. The voucher may be donated to the City or any other property owner within the City for planting a tree with the city limits. Vouchers must be claimed within 30 days of the tree removal and the tree must be purchased and planted within specified time that will be adjusted for seasonal limitations. All unclaimed vouchers will become the property of the City for the purpose of purchasing trees to plant on public property. Replacement trees purchased using a voucher must be a tree on the approved List of Recommended trees for Fort Pierre (See Attachment 1). A limit of three (3) Vouchers per landowner. Vouchers may be issued until available funds are expended.

Replacement of trees removed on private property shall be at the property owner's expense.

The City has a list of recommended trees for Fort Pierre that is available on the website.

## **FORT PIERRE ASH TREE TREATMENT POLICY**

In addition to tree removal, the City will allow the treatment of ash trees in public areas.

Boulevard and other public areas may have ash trees that are available to treat. Such trees must be identified before any removal operations so that these trees may be marked and inventoried and spared from removal. Ash trees must be a minimum of 8" DBH and absent of disease or life-threatening conditions and not in a location that is a danger to the public. The property owner must register such trees with the City and agree to have them treated at the appropriate time(s). Currently the treatment regimen will begin immediately upon discovery of the Emerald Ash Bore (EAB) within 15 miles of the City's boundaries, and every three years thereafter for the life of the tree.

Treatment will be allowed only by injection by a properly licensed and certified applicator.

Trees marked for treatment will be marked by the City, and copies of treatment invoices provided to the City for verification. A record (log) of the treatments must be maintained by the responsible property owner and available for inspection by the City upon request. If marked trees are not treated every three years, said trees will be removed by the City.

The City and/or the Arbor Board will twice annually inventory ash trees in the City to further determine compliance.