City of Rapid City

Dead, Diseased

and Hazardous Tree Removal

Purpose of Program

Western South Dakota is a tough area to grow trees. Some of the trees that do thrive here do not live long. Many of them can become hazardous if they are not removed after they die or start to decline. Rapid City has, and will continue to be hit by all kinds of adverse conditions, and our urban forest is showing the burden. Areas of town show the effects of snow and ice storms, wind damage, insects, disease, and the economic hardships of homeowners. The City Forestry Staff is implementing a program that will decrease the dead, dying, and diseased trees in our neighborhoods. The program outlined here will be an annual program that helps citizens remove troubled trees. This program is designed to help Rapid City manage its Urban Forest, and ready us for any future pest or disease outbreak.

This program incorporates any reimbursement program for tree removals that the Rapid City Parks and Recreation Department currently undertakes. This program will take into account all tree species, and any potential threatening insects or diseases.

Trees that qualify

A. Dead Tree - Any tree that is no longer alive and poses no asset to the city, homeowner or wildlife.
B. Dying Tree - Any tree that is in an irreversible state of decline where death is imminent.
C. Hazardous Tree - Any tree that has the potential for failure and has a target. The failure of said hazardous tree may cause damage or harm to said target owned by anyone other than the tree owner.
D. Diseased Tree – Any tree harboring insects or pathogens that could pose a threat to other trees in the environment. These insects or diseases may be exotic or native.

Areas Covered

Dead and Dying - The program would cover trees within 25 feet of a street curb cut and trees in any Rapid City right of way. This would include boulevard trees and most front yards.

Hazardous and Diseased - Any tree deemed hazardous or diseased would be covered in any area of a property owner’s property.

Code Enforcement - Any tree in violation of Rapid City Municipal Code would be covered in this program.
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Cost Share

1. The city will cost share tree removal at 75% of the removal cost, not to exceed $175 per tree, up to 4 trees.
2. Cost share cannot exceed more than $700 per property owner, per year.
3. Special condition removals may be accepted at the Urban Foresters request. Cost share cannot exceed 75% of the cost of removal, not to exceed $700 per tree.
4. Reimbursements will be granted until funds are exhausted for the year.
5. Entire Corporations, Organizations, Entities, or Groups that own property will be treated as individual property owners for the purpose of this program.

Cost Share Requirements

1. All qualifying trees must be inspected and approved by City Forestry Staff.
2. All properties must lie within Rapid City Limits.
3. All removals must be bid by a City approved contractor, and the bid must be approved by City Forestry Staff.
4. 2 bids are required for approval of a bid.
5. All approved removals will be granted a removal permit.
6. All removals must be completed by an approved city contractor.
7. All removals must be inspected by City Forestry Staff, after removal before reimbursement is given.
8. Tree must be completely removed and the stump cut to ground level.
9. Paid invoice and completed removal permit must be submitted before reimbursement is given.

Property Access Permission

Any homeowner that agrees to this program is giving City staff the right to access their property for the purpose of this program.

Approved Contractors

Approved contractors must be registered with the City and have given yearly proof of liability insurance. Liability insurance can be no less than a 1 million dollar policy. Work done by non-approved contractors will not be eligible for this program. An approved contractor list will be included with all removal permits.