Dead, Diseased or Hazardous Tree Removal Program

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 an annual tree removal program that will decrease the dead, dying, diseased, and hazardous trees in our neighborhoods. 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 manages. 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. A target is identified as persons, objects, or property owned by either the city or citizens.

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, Dying or Hazardous - The program will cover trees within 35 feet of a street curb cut and trees in any Rapid City right-of-way. This will include boulevard trees and most front yards.

Diseased - Any tree deemed diseased will be covered in any area of a property owner’s property.
Assistance Available

Low-Income Cost Share Assistance

For homeowners at or below 100% of area median income:

1. Reimbursement funding will not exceed $800 per homeowner per year.
2. Homeowner is responsible for the additional cost of tree removals that exceed $800.
3. Rapid City Parks and Recreation will pay directly to the homeowner the actual cost up to a maximum of $800 for eligible tree removals.
4. Reimbursements will be granted on a first-come, first-served basis for persons with the required completed, acceptable documentation until funds are exhausted for the year.

If you are not sure if you qualify for the Low-income Cost Share Assistance program, please feel free to call and speak to Megan Gould at Community Development.

Contact Information for Low-income Grant or Cost Share Assistance
Eligibility Determination and Application:
Megan Gould, Community Development Division
333 6th St., Rapid City, SD 57701
(605) 394-4181
Megan.Gould@rcgov.org

Cost Share Assistance

For homeowners with income over 100% of area median income:

1. The city will cost share tree removal at 75% of the removal cost, not to exceed $700.
2. Cost share cannot exceed more than $700 per property owner, per year.
3. Special condition removals may be approved by the Urban Forester. Cost share cannot exceed 75% of the cost of removal, not to exceed $700 per tree.
4. Reimbursements will be granted on a first-come, first-served basis for persons with the required completed, acceptable documentation until funds are exhausted for the year.

Contact Information for Cost Share Assistance:
Andy Bernard or Amy Graves, Rapid City Parks Division
(605) 394-4175
Andy.Bernard@rcgov.org
Amy.Graves@rcgov.org
Cost Share Requirements

1. All qualifying trees must be inspected and approved by City Forestry Staff prior to approval.
2. All properties must lie within Rapid City Corporate Limits.
3. All removals must have at least 2 quotes from City approved contractors.
4. Lowest quote must be taken unless quotes have less than 25% difference.
5. All approved removals will be granted a removal permit.
6. All removals must be completed by a City approved contractor.
7. All removals must be inspected by City Forestry Staff, after removal before grant funds are disbursed or reimbursement is given.
8. Tree must be completely removed and the stump cut to ground level or ground out.
9. Homeowners must pay the contractor in full before the invoice is sent to the city.
10. Paid invoice and completed removal permit must be submitted within 2 weeks of tree removal, 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 annual 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.

Effective Date

This program will be effective beginning ________________.

Dated this ________ day of ____________________, 2016.

CITY OF RAPID CITY

________________________________
Mayor

ATTEST:

________________________________
Finance Officer
(SEAL)