



City of Hastings Parks & Recreation

920 W 10th Street ▪ Hastings, MN 55033 ▪ Ph: 651-480-6175 ▪ www.hastingsmn.gov

NOTIFICATION OF DISEASED, HAZARDOUS, PEST INFESTED BOULEVARD TREES

Date:6/14/2021

Dear Property Owner:

The City of Hastings Forester has identified one or more of your boulevard trees as being PEST INFESTED with **Emerald Ash Borer**. The tree(s) poses a potential risk and hazard to your property and the public. In accordance with the City of Hastings Hazard Tree Inspection and Management Policy, and City Ordinance 95.04, the tree(s) must be removed as soon as possible. The City Forester will mark the Pest Infested boulevard tree requiring removal with orange spray paint. City Ordinance also requires property owners to have the tree stump removed and to plant a replacement tree within the boulevard space.

Property owners have a few options for boulevard tree & stump removals, and for 2021 residents can receive a free replacement tree from Tree Trust during the fall planting season. Please indicate your preference on the attached sheet and return that to the City Forester.

Removal and replacement of trees can be expensive. The Hastings City Council recently adopted a Hardship Relief Program for residents who meet one or more specific qualifications. The details of this program are provided as an attachment to this notification.

Please read through all of the information provided in this packet of materials, there is a lot of information included. If you have additional questions, please contact the City Forester, TJ Lucas at 651-480-6177 or TJLucas@hastingsmn.gov.



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Boulevard Tree Removal Options

Please indicate your preference by checking the box next to the option that best suits your needs.

- I want the City to hire a contractor to remove my boulevard tree and stump.** (The City works with Rivertown Tree Service, a local, reputable, responsible tree care service company. Rivertown Tree Service offers very reasonable pricing for boulevard tree and stump removals.)
 - The City will have a City Contractor remove the tree(s) and stumps.
 - You, the property owner, will be billed 100% of the cost for removals.
 - If you cannot pay the bill, it will be certified for assessment on your property taxes.
 - You must choose this option if you are eligible for the Hardship Relief Program.

- I want to hire my preferred licensed tree removal contractor to remove my boulevard tree and stump.**
 - By arranging to have the tree removed through a licensed contractor of your own choosing you will hire and pay the contractor directly, and bear all responsibility for proper removal and disposal.
 - If you choose this option, you not eligible for the Hardship Relief Program.

- IF the boulevard tree is LESS THAN 8 inches in diameter** you may remove the tree and stump without hiring a contractor. The diameter of the tree must be verified by the City Forester prior to removal. As the property owner you assume all risk and liability and are responsible for proper disposal of tree and stump.

If you choose to have the City contractor remove your boulevard tree the City Forester will make the arrangements for removal with Rivertown Tree Service. Rivertown Tree Service will remove the boulevard tree and stump as their schedule allows; they are not required to give advance notification to property owner.



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Boulevard Tree Replacement Options

Boulevard trees that are removed must be replaced. There are a few instances where this may not be the case (spacing is closer than 50ft between trees, tree is less than 30ft from an intersection, too many underground or overhead obstacles), and those must be coordinated and approved by the City Forester.

Property owners remain responsible for the care and maintenance of boulevard trees abutting their property. This includes watering, mulching, staking and pruning if necessary.

Please indicate your preference by checking the box next to the option that best suits your needs.

- I want the City to provide a replacement boulevard tree from Tree Trust.**
 - Replacement trees from Tree Trust will be available for the fall planting season. The City will decide the type of replacement tree.

- I want to hire my preferred contractor to plant my replacement boulevard tree(s).**
 - Contractor must call Gopher State One and have utilities located prior to digging.
 - Property owner is responsible for 100% of the costs to plant a new boulevard tree.
 - New tree must be planted within the boulevard (requirements provided by Forester).
 - Please refer to the suggested boulevard tree species list (provided by Forester).

- I want to purchase and plant my replacement boulevard tree(s) myself.**
 - Property owner must call Gopher State One and have utilities located prior to digging.
 - Property owner is responsible for 100% of the costs to plant a new boulevard tree.
 - New tree must be planted within the boulevard (requirements provided by City Staff).
 - Please refer to the suggested boulevard tree species list (provided by City staff).

Once you have selected your options for removal and replacements on these forms, please return the forms to the Parks & Recreation Office, at 920 West 10th Street, Hastings, MN 55033, or via email to TLucas@hastingsmn.gov. *If no action is taken by the property owner, the City will direct our contractor to remove the tree & stump, and the City will bill the property owner. The same will occur if no action is taken to replace the boulevard tree.*

Please feel free to contact the City Forester, TJ Lucas at 651-480-6177 or TLucas@hastingsmn.gov with any questions and if you need further assistance.

TJ Lucas,
City Forester
Hastings Parks & Recreation Department
TLucas@hastingsmn.gov
651-480-6177



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Diseased Trees Hardship Relief Program

On June 10th, 2021 the Hastings City Council adopted a resolution creating a Hardship Relief Program for qualified individuals to help reduce costs associated with the removal and replacement of diseased or pest infested boulevard trees.

If you believe you may be eligible for this program, please check the box and provide the appropriate documentation for staff to verify your eligibility.

Eligibility Criteria:

- Property owners' household income is at or below 80% of the Low to Moderate-Income (LMI) of the individual or household median income for Dakota County; or
- Property owner has 4 or more affected boulevard trees that must be removed and replaced.

I am an eligible property owner and I want to apply for the Diseased Tree Hardship Relief Program for my boulevard tree(s) removal and replacement.

Program Details:

If property owner is determined to be eligible, the City will hire a contractor to perform the work and will provide a cost reduction of 40% of the total costs for tree removal and replacement, up to a cap of \$2,000. The property owner will be responsible for the balance of the costs.

Property owners shall make payments for their portion of the costs in one of the following ways:

Please check the box next to your preferred option.

- Pay the City in full upon receipt of an invoice; or
- Allow the City to assess all of the costs against the property, which would be payable in full along with the following year's property taxes; or
- Execute an assessment waiver and allow the City to assess all of the cost against the property as follows: this is an additional process to be completed if this option is desired.
 - For assessments less than \$10,000, such assessments will be payable over 5 years at an interest rate equivalent to the City's most recent interest rate for municipal bonds.
 - For assessments of \$10,000 or more, such assessments will be payable over 10 years at an interest rate equivalent to the City's most recent interest rate for municipal bonds.

This form must be returned to the City Forester at 920 10th Street West, Hastings, MN 55033 with supporting documentation.

CITY OF HASTINGS HARDSHIP RELIEF PROGRAM

2021 Income Limits

Median Inc. = **\$104,900** (effective **June 1, 2021** for Dakota County)

Income Limits	1 person household	2 person household	3 person household	4 person household	5 person household	6 person household	7 person household	8 person household
30%	\$22,050	\$25,200	\$28,350	\$31,450	\$34,000	\$36,500	\$39,000	\$41,550
50%	\$36,750	\$42,000	\$47,250	\$52,450	\$56,650	\$60,850	\$65,050	\$69,250
80%*	\$55,950	\$63,950	\$71,950	\$79,900	\$86,300	\$92,700	\$99,100	\$105,500