

MEMORANDUM

TO: Blair Parks, Recreation, and Cemetery Advisory Board
From: CJ Heaton, Deputy City Administrator of Public Works
Date: 4/21/26
Re: Updated Tree Ordinance

Staff has been working with community members and reviewing the state arboretum, Arbor Day, and other guidelines to review our current tree ordinances. The biggest items we looked at were the types of trees that were allowed or not allowed, spacing, and approvals. Attached are redline versions of the current ordinances. The updated ordinances are more simplified, following recommendations from the Nebraska Statewide Arboretum and the Arbor Day Foundation. The ordinance will reference the approved planting list kept by the Statewide Arboretum, which is updated to reflect the current inventory of trees, ensuring that Blair is not overplanting one type of tree. The spacing guidelines are also based on recommendations from the Arbor Day Foundation. These updated guidelines will allow for more ROW trees, which will, in turn, help add more trees to our streetscapes. Lastly we updated the language regarding who would be approving these plantings. Kyle Sheets, our Parks Laborer, has been working on his Arborist certificate, and will be taking on a larger role as the City Arborist. All questions regarding trees and planting approvals will be under the City Arborist. Kyle will share a short presentation and answer any questions regarding the updates to the ordinance.

Recommendation: Approval and recommendation to approve the updated tree ordinance.

Fiscal Impact: NA