



CITY OF COUNTRYSIDE SHARED COST TREE REMOVAL PROGRAM EFFECTIVE MAY 1, 2020 TO APRIL 30, 2021

I. PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to establish standards and a process for the City's participation in removal of dead, diseased or nuisance trees on private property.

II. DISCUSSION

It is in the City's interest to facilitate the removal of dead, diseased or nuisance trees in the community to help assure public safety and improve and maintain the appearance of Countryside.

III. POLICY

It is the Policy of the Countryside City Council to participate in the removal of dead, diseased or nuisance trees from private property on a shared cost basis with the property owner in accordance with the procedures below.

IV. PROCEDURES

A property owner with a dead, diseased or storm damaged tree on PRIVATE property is eligible to participate in the "Shared Cost Tree Removal Program" whereby the City of Countryside will share 50% up to \$500 of the cost of having the tree removed to ground level. The annual maximum amount that the City will contribute to tree removal is \$500 per household, per fiscal year. The program cap is \$40,000.

Please note that stump removal/stump grinding is not eligible for reimbursement under the Shared Cost Tree Removal Program.

Where a tree is found to be on a property line it is considered to be on private property and eligible for the Shared Cost Tree Removal Program. Other types of trees eligible for the Shared Cost Tree Removal Program are nuisance trees located on PRIVATE property the City Council has deemed certain tree species as being nuisance trees. Trees considered as nuisance species are: cottonwood, willow and mulberry. Ash trees will be included in the program provided the stump and chips are removed simultaneously. The total cost to remove the Ash tree, stump and chips will be 50% up to \$500 with a \$500 cap per household, per fiscal year.

Interested property owners should call the City Clerk's office to report the tree they wish to have removed. An Alderman will then verify that the tree falls within one of the stated categories, i.e., dead, diseased, storm damaged or a nuisance tree, and once confirmed, will notify the City Clerk's office to seek price estimates for its removal. Quotes are for tree removal to ground level and it will be the responsibility of the contractor to remove all brush and branches cut during the operation. All tree service contractors participating in the program must have on file with the City Clerk's office a valid certificate of insurance evidencing current liability coverage in an amount no less than \$1,000,000. The City of Countryside, its officials, employees and volunteers must be named as additional insured on said certificate as a condition of participation in the Tree Removal Program.

Once the estimates are received, the City will inform the property owner of the low quote and reconfirm the property owner's desire to have the tree removed. The City must receive payment of the resident's share before the tree removal occurs.

NOTE: Property owners must make payment within 2 weeks of notification of the quote. If they choose to opt out of the program or do not respond, they may not apply again until the next fiscal year.

Property owners may select a contractor different than the low quote provided the following conditions are met:

1. Work must be done at a cost equal to or lower than the lowest quote received by the City; and
2. If the property owner obtains a bid lower than those bids received by the City, the City may agree to award the tree removal project to the alternate contractor submitting the low bid to the property owner. However, the City of Countryside reserves the right to review and approve the qualifications of the alternate contractor, and, the alternate contractor must provide proof of liability insurance coverage to the City that satisfies the City's requirements. Under no circumstances will the City reimburse either the property owner or the alternate contractor should the alternate contractor's qualifications not meet with the City's approval or the alternate contractor fail to provide evidence of satisfactory liability insurance coverage. The City will not be party to a tree removal project that proceeds with an alternate contractor that does not meet the criteria discussed in this section.