



CITY OF BANNING STAFF REPORT

TO: CITY COUNCIL

FROM: Robert Fisher, Acting City Manager

PREPARED BY: Art Vela, Public Works Director
Ralph Wright, Parks and Recreation Director

MEETING DATE: March 25, 2025

SUBJECT: Discuss the City's Tree Trimming Practices and Resolution 1977-15

RECOMMENDATION:

Receive and file.

BACKGROUND:

This item is presented to City Council at the request of Mayor Sheri Flynn.

The Department of Public Works is responsible for landscape maintenance including the trimming of trees along center road medians as well as around City building facilities. While a formal tree trimming program or schedule is not in place, tree trimming is provided on an as needed basis identified through visual inspections. Tree trimming is performed by both in-house staff and contractors. Contractors are relied upon for larger, complicated jobs that require special equipment and training. Contractors are also utilized to maintain landscaping along the Ramsye Street median from Highland Springs Avenue to Highland Home Road. Trees maintained by the Department of Public Works have been inventoried and mapped.

It should be noted that private property owners are responsible to maintain landscaping fronting their parcels and within the public right-of-way, see Resolution 1977-15 attached hereto. At times City staff may trim shrubs or trees within the public right-of-way when a safety hazard exists or to avoid damage to public property. The City does not have the staff and financial resources to maintain all landscaping within the public right-of-ways.

The Parks and Recreation Department does not currently have a formal tree trimming schedule or tree maintenance plan. The trees within the Banning Park system have for years been significantly under-maintained and to remedy this, the department is currently in the development of a formal tree maintenance plan and will have it completed in 2025. In 2023, the department had a system wide tree inventory completed that mapped all of the trees in our parks, categorized them by species, evaluated their health status, estimated asset values, and provided recommendations for general maintenance or if necessary, removal.

With the current staffing levels, tree trimming by in-house staff is limited to emergency limb removals for public safety and the Park's landscape maintenance contractor skirts trees to a minimum 6' level as needed.

JUSTIFICATION:

N/A

FISCAL IMPACT:

It is estimated that to properly maintain all of its trees, the annual tree maintenance costs for general maintenance would be above \$100,000 for the Parks and Recreation Department and above \$100,000 for the Department of Public Works.

The Parks and Recreation Department tree trimming budget has been slowly increasing from \$12,500 in FY 2022 to \$29, 210 in FY 2025 and the department currently attempts to contract for crown cleaning and crown trimming of our large trees to remove the dead wood and thin the mature trees to mitigate the wind effect and safety in our parks.

The Street Maintenance Division of Department of Public Works has an annual budget of \$25,000 while the Building and Maintenance Division of Department of Public Works has an annual budget of \$10,000.

ALTERNATIVES:

N/A

BUDGETED?:

No

CONTRACT/AGREEMENT:

No

ATTACHMENTS:

1. [Landscape Maintenance right of way Flier.pdf](#)
2. [Landscape Maintenance Reso 1977-15.pdf](#)