

Memorandum

TO: City Council
FROM: Krista Billerbeck , Natural resources manager
DATE: May 4, 2026
SUBJECT: Nuisance abatement - Required tree removals
ITEM NUMBER: 10.a
SECTION: GENERAL BUSINESS

REQUESTED MOTION

To adopt Resolutions 26-30 through 26-43, approving the abatement of untreated ash trees and other dead trees on private property that may impact the right of way at the following properties:

1684 Hillview Rd	5993 Grotto St N
1698 Hillview Rd	505 Doris Ave
1550 Lois Dr	5664 Erik Ln
5828 Hamline Ave N	291 Oakwood Dr
5942 Birchwood St	5464 Carlson Rd
5598 Park Place Dr	4620 Milton St
715 Emil Ave	4989 Turtle Ln W

INTRODUCTION

The city council is being asked to order an abatement of the public nuisances of untreated ash trees and other dead trees on 14 properties. The council has the authority to declare and abate nuisances on private property that do not comply with city regulations. Location maps of the properties along with pictures of the trees are attached at the end of the report.

DISCUSSION

As discussed at the council workshop on July 21, 2025, the city required the removal of untreated ash trees and other dead trees from private property in a portion of the city in 2026. In accordance with City Code Section 22-2, trees with plant pests, such as emerald ash borer (EAB), and standing dead trees may be declared to be a public nuisance. Trees required to be removed were in locations that may impact a public right of way or public property if the tree failed and had a removal deadline of March 31, 2026. Trees in the north half of the city were assessed in summer 2025 to identify untreated ash trees and other dead trees close to the right of way. 152 properties were sent letters regarding the removal of tree(s) on their property.

Property owners were notified of the tree(s) on their property and the required removal via letter on:

October 24, 2025

December 29, 2025

February 10, 2026

Staff sought out quotes from tree contractors to provide to property owners and sent the overall lowest quote in the December 29 letter. Property owners were notified that they could use any city licensed tree company to remove the trees or proceed with the quote provided by the city for the removal to be completed by Upper Cut Tree Services. The average price for removal by Upper Cut Tree Services was \$806. A little under half of the properties opted to proceed with the quote provided by the city from Upper Cut. Information about a voluntary special assessment was also provided to property owners in the letter from December 29, 2025. This was offered to assist property owners by spreading the cost out over a 3-year period.

A letter was mailed on April 9, 2026 and posted at the property of addresses that had not removed the tree(s) by March 31, 2026 notifying them of the abatement. The letter listed the hearing scheduled for the city council meeting and that the property owners have the right to appear at the hearing. If the council orders the abatement, the city will abate the nuisance by hiring a tree contractor to remove the tree. The cost of the abatement will be charged to the property owner and certified to the real estate property taxes if the bill is not paid. Resolutions 26-30 through 26-43 ordering the abatement of the nuisances are attached for consideration by the city council.

RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends that the city council conduct the required hearing and adopt Resolutions 26-30 through 26-43 approving the abatement of the untreated ash and other dead trees at 14 properties if the tree(s) are still present on the meeting date. If the council approves the motion, staff will move forward with the abatement of the nuisance conditions.

ATTACHMENTS

[2026 Required tree removal packet](#)

[Resolution 26-30 Nuisance abatement_1684HillviewRd.pdf](#)

[Resolution 26-31 Nuisance abatement_1698HillviewRd.pdf](#)

[Resolution 26-32 Nuisance abatement_1550LoisDr.pdf](#)

[Resolution 26-33 Nuisance abatement_5828HamlineAve.pdf](#)

[Resolution 26-34 Nuisance abatement_5942BirchwoodSt.pdf](#)

[Resolution 26-35 Nuisance abatement_5598ParkPlaceDr.pdf](#)

[Resolution 26-36 Nuisance abatement_715EmilAve.pdf](#)

[Resolution 26-37 Nuisance abatement_5993GrottoStN.pdf](#)

[Resolution 26-38 Nuisance abatement_505DorisAve.pdf](#)

[Resolution 26-39 Nuisance abatement_5664ErikLn.pdf](#)

[Resolution 26-40 Nuisance abatement_291OakwoodDr.pdf](#)

[Resolution 26-41 Nuisance abatement_5464CarlsonRd.pdf](#)

[Resolution 26-42 Nuisance abatement_4620MiltonSt.pdf](#)

[Resolution 26-43 Nuisance abatement_4989TurtleLnW.pdf](#)