



Diane Nichols Tradd
Assistant City Manager/DPD Director

Craig Thomas
Deputy Director

MEMORANDUM

TO: Eileen M. Donoghue, City Manager *EMD*

FROM: Diane N. Tradd, Assistant City Manager/DPD Director
Shannon Cohan, Superintendent of Parks

DATE: May 21, 2019

SUBJECT: COUNCIL MOTION OF 3/26/19 BY COUNCILOR CIRILLO
REQUEST CITY MANAGER PROVIDE CITY COUNCIL WITH CITYWIDE SPRING TREE PLANTING
SCHEDULE

The Department of Public Works (DPW) manages ongoing tree maintenance through in-house staff or through contracted vendors. The DPW Commissioner is the Tree Warden by default. DPW has one Tree Climber on staff; this staffer identifies problem trees, works with the utility companies to coordinate pruning and removals, and provides recommendations for the DPW Commissioner regarding tree removal. DPW Laborers are assigned to assist the Tree Climber as needed. M&M Burbank is contracted for all tree removal, pruning, and spraying that exceeds DPW's in-house capabilities. They are also called in to supplement DPW efforts during times of unprecedented need. When trees are removed, due to deterioration or damage caused by a storm, DPW works with the Department of Planning and Development (DPD) and the Lowell Parks and Conservation Trust to try and replant new trees if the location is appropriate or plant trees in another location in the City.

Shannon Cohan, the new Superintendent of Parks, recently started in his new position and has been working diligently to get caught up with ongoing park projects and prepping parks and fields across the City for spring/summer uses. The Parks Department currently has plans to plant 17 trees in the next several weeks, many of these tree planting locations were determined in coordination with the Lowell Parks and Conservation Trust. One tree was recently planted with a local Girl Scout troop at Shedd Park, seven trees will be planted in front of the Leo Roy Garage to replace the trees that were previously at that location and have died. An additional four trees are planned for planting along Marston Street and five more trees are set aside for planting throughout various locations. The City also received a state earmark dedicated to streetscape improvements downtown, this scope may include new tree plantings at locations throughout the neighborhood. The Parks Department, the Department of Planning and Development and the Lowell Parks and Conservation Trust will continue to work collaboratively to identify locations for new tree plantings, and plan for an appropriate variety of trees species across the City. We welcome citizen input on possible locations for new trees, and will work to determine the feasibility of new plantings as opportunities present themselves.

DPD staff also contacted the MA Department of Conservation and Recreation Urban and Community Forestry staff to inquire about the Greening the Gateway Program. Unfortunately there are no current plans to expand this program into Lowell. DPD staff will continue ongoing conversations with the Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs, who guide the strategic decisions with this specific program.

DNT/ns

cc: Yovani Baez-Rose, Design Planner