



City of Neenah Tree Replanting Plan Fact Sheet



OVERVIEW

The July 27, 2026 tornado caused significant damage across the City of Neenah, including severe impacts to our public tree canopy. As a proud Tree City USA for over 40 years, the City of Neenah is committed to restoring and strengthening our urban forest through a structured multi-year replanting plan.

IMPACT SUMMARY

- More than 400 public trees have been damaged and/or removed as a result of the storm.
- Damage occurred across multiple parks, street terraces, and public spaces.
- Recovery will require a phased, multi-year approach to ensure proper spacing, species diversity, long-term health of new plantings, and allowances for contractors to access residential properties.

CITY REPLANTING PLAN

- Priority will be given to planting in the most heavily-affected neighborhoods and public corridors.
- The City Forester and City Arborist will select the appropriate species for each location, emphasizing site conditions and diversity.
- Replanting will occur in structured phases over the next 1-5 years.
- The tentative planting plan is as follows:
 - September 2026 - Riverside Park - ~35 trees
 - Spring 2027 - Riverside Park - ~70 trees
 - Late Summer/Fall 2027 - Doty, Kimberly Point, and Fresh Air Parks - ~80 trees
 - Fall 2028 - Street Terrace Tree Placement - ~160 trees



Why is the City waiting so long to begin street tree replacement?

This will give time to the residential property owners to fix and repair their homes, garages, and yards without having to worry about a newly-planted street tree.



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CURRENT PROGRAM UPDATES

- Tree Assessment: This will be an ongoing effort to identify and locate trees throughout the city that either need to be “safety pruned” or removed. This effort could last another 6-12 months. Trees that seem sound today may fail next spring as the tree begins to leaf out.
- To allow the City to focus on storm-affected areas, the Trees for the Living and Private Street Tree Programs will be suspended, effective immediately, for at least 2 years. This ensures staff capacity and funding can be directed toward restoring damaged public spaces.

HOW RESIDENTS CAN SUPPORT RECOVERY

Community support plays an important role in rebuilding Neenah’s urban forest. Residents may contribute in the following ways:

- Make a donation toward public tree replacement (recommended donation of \$500 - see Quick Facts below):
 - Online contributions are available through the City’s donation portal.
 - Scan the QR code to the right to access the portal.
 - In-person donations can be made at the Parks & Recreation Office.
- Stay informed about/participate in volunteer planting days or community forestry events.



QUICK FACTS

- The City of Neenah’s current public tree canopy consists of more than 50% maple trees. A healthy diverse tree environment should have no more than 10% of any tree species.
- Depending on the size and type of trees to replant and care for, 1 tree costs roughly \$500-\$700 the first year. The cost covers purchase of the tree, excavation, planting, staking, mulching, staffing, and equipment.

BENEFITS OF TREES

- Trees play an essential role in creating a healthy, vibrant, and resilient community. They improve air quality, reduce stormwater runoff, and help moderate temperatures by providing natural cooling during hot weather. Trees also enhance neighborhood beauty, increase property values, and create welcoming public spaces for recreation and relaxation. Beyond environmental and economic benefits, trees support wildlife habitat, improve mental well-being, and strengthen community identity.



Our Commitment

The City of Neenah’s urban forest is a key part of our community’s identity, environmental health, and overall quality of life. As a Tree City USA community, we are committed to rebuilding stronger, healthier, and more resilient than ever.



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