City of Kimball
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www.kimballne.org

Kimball Tree Grant Program Details

The City of Kimball was recently awarded a $160,000 Community Forestry Infrastructure grant from PlantNebraska. The key activities will be spread across the 2.5 year grant period and include:

- removal of approximately 60-70 dead, dying, dangerous, and diseased trees
- planting 75 new trees in replacement of the removed trees
- pruning city owned trees
- reimbursement stipends for certifications and other educational activities specifically related to tree work, management and care.
- host a Tree Care Workshop for the public and city staff
- employ one student intern to assist with planting, tree care, monitoring, and documentation of grant activities.
- partner with the Village of Bushnell to support tree planting and hazard mitigation, expanding the project impact beyond the City of Kimball. The goal is to remove approximately 8 dead, dying, dangerous, and diseased trees, and plant 8 replacement trees.

Further details on grant work timing and implementation:

The official grant period begins July 1, 2026. A complete tree inventory will be done in conjunction with western community foresters with the Nebraska Forest Service, to identify all street trees, school trees, and city owned properties. Data that will be collected include species, trunk size, condition, and GPS coordinates. This information will be used to guide the Kimball Tree Board in assessing trees that are eligible for removal under this program.

There will be no application or nomination process for removals or plantings at this time. Trees that are deemed eligible will be graded on a point value matrix, then placed in priority order for removal. The 15 points include: 1. Species is Ash, Elm, Hackberry, Cottonwood 2. Trunk is larger than 24 inches across 3. Height is more than 30 feet 4. 50% or more dead 5. 100% dead (also gets 50% pt.), 6. Visible cavity or decay 7. Visible crack in trunk or branch more than 15 inches thick 8. Leaning toward a fixed target such as building or street 9. Powerline within 1x height of tree 10. House/building within 1x height of tree 11. Street within 1x height of tree 12. Along HWY 30, Chestnut, Nadine or Washington St. (also gets visible pt.) 13. Visible from HWY 30, Chestnut, Nadine or Washington St. 14. Trunk/Stump is taller than 4 feet 15. Trunk/Stump is within 20 feet from street edge.

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Tree owners will be approached, and required to sign a release of liability, and agreement to participate in the program for removal, replanting a replacement and establishment tree care for a minimum of 3 years. The removal list will continue to be reviewed each year of the grant and adjusted as needed, in the event of storm damage, or newfound hazardous trees.

The City will contract removals, plantings, and pruning. All activities will be completed by contractors, at no cost to the tree owner. The complete tree inventory is already underway. The Tree Board will begin July 1 to officially identify, score, prioritize, approach tree owners and collect agreements. Then coordinate the request for bid to schedule removals for the winter months of 2026-2027, with replacement trees being planted in spring of 2027.