City of Omaha
Parks, Recreation and Public Property
Tree Mitigation Policy for City Parks

Areas With Individual Trees and No Understory

The following formula is based on diameter of the tree at breast height. The size breakdown is consistent with the Public Works standard line items for tree removal.

- Less than 4” diameter – 1 tree
- > 4”-9” diameter – 2 trees
- > 9”-18” diameter – 3 trees
- > 18”-27” diameter – 4 trees
- > 27”-36” diameter – 5 trees
- > 36”-48” diameter – 6 trees
- > 48” diameter – 7 trees

Areas with Continuous Canopy and Understory

For areas which are wooded with continuous understory and canopy, it can be difficult for every tree to be inventoried. In these situations, contingent upon Park Planner approval, another formula may be utilized. This would involve measuring the square foot area of the canopy in plan view and dividing it by 500 square feet, the approximate average size of a mature tree canopy. The resulting number would be the number of trees to be replaced at a 2:1 ratio. Though overstory trees should be the predominant replacement type, if the Park Planner/City Forester agrees it’s appropriate to plant shrubs in order to replace understory, 3 shrubs shall equal 1 tree.

Replacement Tree Criteria

Replacement trees should comply with the current edition “American Standard for Nursery Stock” and shall meet the following minimum sizes:

- Medium and Large Deciduous Trees – 2” caliper, balled and burlapped
- Ornamental and Small Deciduous Trees – 1 1/2” caliper, balled and burlapped
- Multi-Stem Deciduous Tree – 6’ height, 3 or more main stems
- Evergreen Trees – 6’ height, balled and burlapped

The Park Planner/City Forester reserves the right to approve alternate proposals for replacement trees, such as trees grown in tree bags. Such alternate proposals will be evaluated on a case by case basis.