

## **City of Gering Tree Rebate Program** **(To be completed by Property Owner)**

The City of Gering recognizes the importance of the community forest and the benefits city trees provide citizens. A community tree canopy comprised of a variety of species and ages indicates a healthy, sustainable community forest. To ensure that the City of Gering community forest continues to grow and provide a multitude of benefits to its citizens the City is once again providing a Tree Rebate Program. This program is intended to encourage property owners within the city limits of Gering to plant trees. A fifty percent rebate up to \$100.00 will be paid upon meeting guidelines below. Only one tree will be rebated per property owner per year. A maximum of \$1,500.00 will be used to fund the Tree Rebate Program and Tree Removal Rebate program. These funds are awarded on a first come first served basis. Funds are limited and applications must be submitted no later than sixty days from the date of tree purchase. The Rebate Program, as developed by the Gering Parks, Cemetery and Tree Board is available to purchasers of trees under the following conditions:

1. Purchaser must follow the attached planting guidelines as approved by the Gering Parks, Cemetery and Tree Board. Guidelines were developed by the Nebraska Statewide Arboretum and the International Society of Arboriculture (ISA). Failure to follow planting guidelines will result in rebate not being given.
2. The purchaser must present a sales slip stating the type, size and cost of the tree to the City Clerk at the Gering City Offices. Upon presenting the sales slip, the site of the planting will be inspected by a representative of the Parks, Cemetery and Tree Board or the Director of Parks, Recreation and Leisure Services to make sure it was planted in accordance with attached guidelines.
3. Tree must be planted in the front yard **within** the area that is 20' from back of curb. If property is situated on a corner lot trees maybe planted in the side yard adjacent to the street. These trees must be planted within 20' back of curb.
4. Trees must be a minimum of six feet (6') in height and have one central leader. (Please note, research has shown that planting smaller trees, 1" in diameter or less, re-establish more quickly in the landscape. Planting smaller trees increases survival rates and smaller trees will actually put on more growth sooner than large transplanted trees in the landscape. Consider planting smaller trees.)
5. Trees must have a high quality root system. Trees that have circling roots or undersized root systems will not be eligible for tree rebate. Trees must be one of the following production methods:

**Bare Root:** (no soil attached to root and not in a container)

**Balled & Burlap:** Tree roots have been cut and remaining roots and surrounding soil are wrapped in a burlap bag. For every 1" of trunk diameter the root bag shall be 12" in diameter or larger.

**Container:** Trees have a complete root system and are grown in a plastic pot or a fabric bag. \*\*\*Do NOT buy trees that are "root bound" (i.e. kinked or circling in the container.)

**Mechanical Tree Spade:** Root ball of tree is hydraulically lifted out of the soil. Rebate will cover the spading of trees that are no larger than 6" in trunk diameter. Trees will be required to have 12" of lateral root and soil for every 1" of trunk diameter at breast height. Trees not meeting this requirement will not qualify for a rebate.

**6. Trees must be one of the following types:**

<u>Canopy Trees</u>		<u>Trees for Under Powerlines</u>
Hackberry		Rocky Mountain Maple
Honeylocust	Hophornbeam	Flowering Crab (Fireblight Resistant)
Horsechestnut	Hybrid Elms	Flowering Hawthorne
Ohio Buckeye		Ivory Silk Japanese Lilac
Kentucky Coffeetree		Amur Maacki
Hot Wings Tatarium Maple		Ivory Silk Tree
Oak - (All but Red & Pin Oak)		
Linden (all cultivars)		

7. Trees must be purchased by residents of Gering from businesses located in the Counties of Scotts Bluff or Goshen in Wyoming. Bare root trees may be purchased online from a licensed nursery.
8. Trees must be planted in accordance with the Nebraska Statewide Arboretum Tree Planting for Success Guide in order for rebate to be given. Guide is attached.

REVISED 4/10, 4/18, 2/19, 2/20

## Gering Tree Board

### Selection of Quality Landscape Trees

1. Select a tree species that is adapted to the western Nebraska environment (i.e. plant hardiness zones 2, 3 or 4). Consult extension publication, "Landscape Trees for Western Nebraska" (Panhandle Forestry newsletter SE91-1), available at your county extension office.
2. Select a tree suitable for the planting site. Ask questions about mature height and spread, fruiting habits, potential insect/disease problems, winter hardiness and drought tolerance.
3. Locally grown trees selected and propagated from trees of local origin are best; next best choice are trees whose known origin is from localities having climate, latitude and altitude similar to that of Nebraska. Avoid originating and/or grown in nurseries south of Nebraska.
4. Avoid fast growing tree species whenever possible; they usually have weak, brittle wood and are short lived. Buy desirable, slower growing trees.
5. Select a tree with a healthy, well developed root system. Trees are available in three forms, with the following guidelines:
  - Bare Root**: Root branching should be symmetrical with roots oriented down and out from the main trunk; root system should be moist.
  - Balled & Burlapped**: Root ball should have a firm soil with trunk securely tied. Avoid a tree with a broken "ball" or circling root at the base of the trunk. Always cut circling roots if present.
  - Container**: Do NOT buy trees that are "root grown bound" (i.e. kinked or circling in the container. Always remove can, basket or pot when planting, make at least four vertical cuts down the root ball when planting.
  - Mechanical Tree Spade**: Trees should be small enough to accommodate the size of the tree spade. For every inch in trunk diameter a minimum of 12" of soil and root should be extracted from the ground. Tree spades come in different sizes, the more soil and root you can acquire the less tree roots will be damaged.
6. Avoid a tree with a small, undersized root system; diameter of root system or ball should be 10 or MORE times trunk diameter (measured 6" above ground).
7. Select a tree with a single, straight central leader and symmetrical crown that has not been heavily pruned (i.e. "headed back"); **DO NOT** buy a tree with a double leader or the leader removed.
8. Inspect the trunk closely; trees with discolored, sunken or swollen areas on the bark should be bypassed.

9. Avoid trees showing visible signs of insect bore holes, sun scald, cracks, bark scrapes or improper branch pruning (i.e. stub or flush cuts). Beware of the tree wrap hiding these trunk and bark problems; remove wrap to see what is underneath.
10. LEARN ABOUT TREES! Contact your local extension agent, forester, nurseryman or professional arborist.

Online resources for tree placement, selection and planting

<https://nfs.unl.edu/>

<https://www.treesaregood.org/>

<https://plantnebraska.org/>

<https://extension.unl.edu/>

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone No. \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Purchased From: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Planted By: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**Draw location of the tree in relation to the house and other permanent objects.**

Approved by: \_\_\_\_\_

(Park Board Representative)

**For official use:**

- Tree planted within 20' Back of curb in front or side yard adjacent to Street
- Tree species from approved city of Gering species list
- Tree has acceptable root system for size of tree
- Tree is free of trunk damage
- Tree has one central leader
- Tree's first lateral roots are at grade level
- Tree is mulched with 2-3" of woodchip mulch
- Tree is sufficiently staked with 2-3 stakes depending on size and location of tree
- If applicable tree has plastic pot removed or wire basket partially removed