

The updated City of Atlanta Tree Protection Ordinance requires the replanting of most healthy trees that are removed from private and public property in the City. If the replanting of all the required trees is not possible, the replanting requirement may be partly satisfied by paying a sum of money into the City’s Tree Trust Fund that is equivalent to the value of the trees that were not planted. The value of the unplanted trees is defined in the tree ordinance as the “Established Recompense Value” and is based on the cost to the City of Atlanta to purchase and plant a tree that meets the minimum requirements of a “replacement tree” in the ordinance. The minimum requirements that have the most direct influence on the cost to plant the replacement tree are:

- All trees must be at least 2.5 inches in diameter (also referred to as 2.5 “caliper inches” in the ordinance), though smaller trees may be approved for planting under certain special circumstances;
- All Trees that are 2.5 inches in diameter must have a guarantee that they will survive for two full growing seasons after planting or they must be replaced.

To establish the cost to the City to plant a replacement tree, recent City contract prices for replacement tree planting were reviewed and analyzed. Most of these contracts were construction contracts that included tree planting, though one contract (FC-8832) was solely for tree planting and maintenance. Replacement tree prices for 17 contracts are listed below.

Contract name	Contract No.	Cost/ tree	Dept.
Annual Sanitary Sewer Repair A	FC-8412A	\$240	DWM
Collier Road Outfall Sewer Improvements Phase 1 & 2	FC-1190031	\$250	DWM
Howell Mill Road Outfall Repair - Emergency	C-1051	\$250	DWM
Terrell Creek Trunk System Sewer Improvements	FC-10337	\$350	DWM
MLK Jr. Corridor Improvements, Fulton Ind. To Ollie St	FC-10213	\$403	DPW
Childress Drive Bridge Tree Replacement	PO-52105545, date: 12-21-20	\$410	ATLDOT
Annual Contract for Grn. Infrastructure and Landscape Services	FC-9187	\$450	DWM
Services Agreement for Urban Forestry	FC-8832	\$570	DPR
Oldfield Outfall Sewer Repair - Emergency	C-1051	\$650	DWM
Sewer Group Three - Small Diameter Rehabilitation - Contract B	FC-9216	\$800	DWM
Annual Sanitary Sewer Repair B	FC-8412B	\$1,000	DWM
Annual Contracts For Stormwater Upgrade and Repair Services	FC-10244A & B	\$1,057	DWM
Lenox Road Widening	FC-1190065-Group B, additional quote 7-20-20	\$1,075	ATLDOT
Sewer Group Three - Small Diameter Rehabilitation - Contract C	FC-9779	\$1,260	DWM
Sewer Group Three - Small Diameter Rehabilitation - Contract D	FC-10376	\$1,908	DWM

For the purposes of this fee study, the contract price of \$1,908 (FC-10376) was determined to be an outlier which could artificially skew the analysis of the data, and was excluded. For balance, the lowest price (\$240, FC-8412A) was also excluded.

To determine the cost to the City for a replacement tree, the contract prices, excluding the highest and lowest, were averaged, with the mean cost being \$656 per tree. Taking into account this represents an increase in the previous recompense charged by the City and to account for other variables, the City proposes to reduce the mean and instead use \$600 as the cost of a 2.5 inch diameter replacement tree with a two year guarantee.

The "Established Recompense Value" is the cost, per inch, of replacement trees owed. Based on \$600/2.5 inch diameter tree, the **Established Recompense Value will be \$240 per inch.** (\$600 divided by 2.5).