Ashington Estates Neighborhood Association

Mid Year Update and Tentative Timeline - July 2023

Project Updates:

Tree Replacement Project

- ☐ Phase I tree removal completed
  - ☐ Remaining wood shavings and chips will decompose naturally
  - ☐ Shavings and small chips decompose in 3-6 months
  - ☐ Larger chips (i.e. similar to our medium pine bark mulch) will decompose in 6 months-2 years
  - ☐ In-ground roots may take 2-3 years to regress
  - ☐ To accelerate decomposition,
    - ☐ Owners may opt to rake and remove the larger chips
    - ☐ If Owners need assistance, we may be able to provide volunteer(s) assistance with removal (especially for the elderly or individuals with infirmity).
    - ☐ Many of our Owners are wonderful neighbors and enjoy gardening activities. Please reach out to the Association Manager if you need assistance or would like to help your neighbors in need.
- ☐ Phase I tree re-planting (tentative October 2023-February 2024)
  - ☐ Arborist strongly advises against immediate replanting, recommended delay until at least October
    - ☐ Weather has been excessively hot, which is a major stressor for replanted trees. October begins the cooler phase of our weather cycle.
    - ☐ We have been in drought for 2 months, which increases demand for water on replanting and creates a secondary stressor for replanted trees
  - ☐ City of Tampa Natural Resources Department agrees with Arborist recommendations. They have given us until Feb-March 2024 to complete the Phase I replanting.
- ☐ Phase II tree removal will not start until replanting has completed

Sidewalk Repair/Replacement Project:

- ☐ Initial repairs completed off schedule by vendor error.
  - ☐ Any damage to already repaired sidewalks from tree project will be managed by the sidewalk vendor without charge due to the mistake
- ☐ Completion phase of repairs to commence now that Phase I tree removal has completed
- ☐ Damage to some sidewalk segments that were scheduled for repair occurred during tree removal, and are included in the repairs to be done

- This potential was anticipated by the Board.
- This was the reasoning for completion of the tree removal first, and delay of sidewalk repairs by 1 month as a result.
- Proper ordering of the projects was reasoned to decrease the possibility of repeat repairs and minimize the costs.

- Community Association Manager will send out an email blast with the new repair date(s)
- If the sidewalks in front of your home have colored markings, be sure to mark your irrigation heads and lines prior to the repairs to help reduce the possibility of landscape irrigation damage.
- Please remember the Special Assessment for Common Area sidewalk repairs is due August 1, 2023. If you did not receive a coupon for payment, please contact the Association manager or stop by the clubhouse for assistance.

High Visibility Common Areas Refresh Project:

- The Board has identified several areas of high visibility in need of refresh/refurbishing to enhance the appearance of the Common Areas
  - The 4 cul-de-sac roundabouts (in need of replanting to enhance the appearance)
  - Multiple front of the neighborhood Chenango roundabout flower beds
- Now that the wet season is beginning, the Board is beginning the process of securing bids and replanting these areas to enhance the appearance of the Common Areas.
- Expect workers in these areas in the coming 1-3 months to complete this work.

Street and Sidewalk Clearance:

- Maintaining the street clearance (16') and sidewalk clearance (8') of trees in the Common Areas, including the easement between the sidewalks and roadway, is a responsibility of the Association.
- As the street trees are being removed and replaced, the Board is trying to avoid advanced structured pruning and shaping of the trees (to be removed) to decrease the costs to the Association.
- The Board is planning to cut limbs that are improperly low.
  - On drive throughs, the Association Management company is identifying low-riding trees for the Board to intervene (below the threshold) to maintain proper clearance, but this is not always easy from a vehicle.
  - To assist, please email the Association Manager if the tree(s) on your Tract A Easement (between roadway and sidewalk) are too low (below 8' over sidewalk and 16' over the roadway).
  - Please submit areas in need of trimming by July 15 so that we can proceed with removal.
- Please remember that trees, shrubs, bushes and other plants that are not on Common Areas are not eligible for this trimming by the Association.