

# Lewiston Offers Storm Water Treebate to Residents



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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**LEWISTON:** **If you are a resident who has or wants to have a "green thumb," you can benefit from Lewiston's new Treebate Program!** On August 15, 2017, the Lewiston City Council approved a policy whereby residents can receive a rebate for a portion of the cost incurred for purchasing and planting trees on single-family and duplex properties. The rebate will credit a property owner's storm water fee for 50% of the cost of a qualifying tree up to a maximum of \$100. Applicants are eligible for no more than one tree per year.

Ward 7 City Councilor Michael Lachance, who came up with the idea, notes, **"Planting a tree improves more than the property it is planted on. Quality trees enhance streets, neighborhoods, and whole cities. This program 'gives back' to those who choose to enhance their property with a quality tree. It's a great way for Lewiston rate payers to collaborate with City Hall and enhance our neighborhoods—a 'win-win' return on investment for everyone!"**

Indeed, the positive impact trees have on a community are many. They enhance the urban environment by reducing storm water runoff and absorbing rainfall, reducing soil erosion, absorbing odors and polluting gases, conserving energy when strategically placed around buildings, and improving the community's overall aesthetics.

Trees suggested for Treebate planting are the *Red Maple, Yellowwood, Green Ash, Thornless Honeylocust, Pin Oak, Japanese Pagoda Tree, Little Leaf Linden, Homestead Elm, Sugar Maple, White Ash, Ginko, Amur Corktree, Bradford Callery Pear, Japanese Tree Lilac, and Princeton Elm*. Other trees can be planted as part of the program upon approval of the City's Arborist. Trees must be at least 1.5 inches in caliper measurement, the diameter of the trunk 6 inches above the soil surface.

Residents should submit a Treebate application available at [www.lewistonmaine.gov/treebate](http://www.lewistonmaine.gov/treebate) and be approved before planting. Once the application is reviewed and eligible for storm water utility credits based on fund availability, residents will be contacted. Tree descriptions and a planting guide can also be found at the above link. ###