

Maple Drive Tree Replacement

Although seven mature oak trees are soon to be removed from Maple Drive, more than 40 will take their place. They will be joined by October Glory, Japanese, and Trident maples in a systematic replanting this fall.

The Maple Drive Tree Plan, to be used as a pilot project for the City of Griffin, is the result of weeks of planning by the newly formed Griffin Tree Board. Each tree on Maple Drive, in the corridor between Milner Drive and Pine Ridge Drive, has been plotted and its health evaluated by certified arborists. The seven oaks tagged for removal have been deemed an eminent threat to safety.

“We will begin replacing these oaks at the optimum planting time this fall, probably in late November or December,” said Milton McCarthney of the City of Griffin. “Best results come from planting trees 8 ft tall with two and a half inch diameter trunks on the right of ways.”

According to Jerry Walker, Chairman of Griffin’s Plant the Future and Vice Chairman of the Tree Board, smaller trees often have a better chance for survival in an urban environment. “We will all miss the canopy from these massive trees,” he said. “Our first instinct is to replace them with large trees, but that’s not always the best solution. The larger trees can easily go into shock once they’re transplanted. Smaller trees, with their immature root systems, can easily become established in the new setting and catch up quickly”.

Maple Drive residents affected by the tree removal will be given the opportunity to purchase larger tree specimens of the pre-selected varieties for the right of way in front of their property.

“City of Griffin crews will plant and maintain these trees bought by the homeowners, just as we do the smaller ones,” McCarthney said. “However, if one of the larger purchased trees doesn’t live, there are no guarantees that it will be replaced with the same size tree.”

The Tree Board’s selection of replacement trees was for both aesthetics and practicality.

“Most of the oaks on Maple Drive were planted at the same time in the 1920’s,” said Diane Boles, Tree Board member and certified landscape architect. “We’ve chosen a wider variety to prevent having to replace so many mature trees at once. We wanted to include some maples for color and to go along with the street name.”