

CHAPTER 58

URBAN FOREST UTILITY

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58.01 PURPOSE. An Urban Forest Utility is hereby established for the entire City of Murray to provide for the collection and use of public tree management fees, tree permit fees, and other fees as applicable for use to maintain trees on City owned property, including but not limited to trees located in right-of-way’s, parks, and greenspaces, to provide for the treatment, removal, disposal, and re-use of trees and tree-related materials including compost and mulch, and for the repopulation of the City tree canopy.

58.02 FEE. Each residential, commercial and industrial premise shall pay a monthly urban forest utility fee in accordance with the following effective dates and corresponding amounts:

Effective Date	Monthly Fee
9/1/2024	\$2.00/parcel

Beginning July 1, 2025 and then on each July 1 thereafter, the per month fee shall automatically increase by three (3%) each year, rounded up to the nearest penny.

58.03 BILLING PROCEDURES – PAYMENT OF BILLS. Urban forest utility charges are due and payable under the same terms and conditions provided for payment of a combined service account as contained in Section 92.03 of this Code of Ordinances.

58.04 LIEN FOR NONPAYMENT. The owner of a premise and any lessee or tenant thereof shall be jointly and severally liable for charges for the urban forest utility. Any such charges remaining unpaid and delinquent shall constitute a lien upon the premises served and shall be certified by the City Clerk to the Clarke County Treasurer for collection in the same manner as property taxes.

58.05 USE OF FUNDS. All revenues and moneys derived from the collection of Urban forestry utility fee shall be paid to and held by the City separate and apart from all other funds of the City and all of said sums and all other funds and moneys incident to the operation of said system, as may be delivered to the City, shall be deposited in a separate fund designated as the “Urban Forestry Utility” and the Council shall administer said fund in the manner provided herein, by the *Code of Iowa* and all other laws pertaining thereto.

(Chapter 58 – Ord. 2024-18 – Aug. 24 Supp.)