

PLANNING AHEAD FOR BUDGET SEASON

A PRACTICAL TOOL TO REDUCE SURPRISES AND BUILD A MORE PREDICTABLE BUDGET

WHY PLANNING MATTERS

In Minnesota's compressed maintenance season, reactive decisions often lead to higher costs, emergency work, and avoidable disruptions. When issues are addressed only after they arise, it becomes harder to control outcomes and plan effectively. Use this framework to evaluate the past year and plan proactively for the next.



PHASE 1: OBSERVE

WHAT ARE YOU SEEING ACROSS YOUR PROPERTY?

- Are trees showing signs of decline or stress?
- Is turf or landscape performance meeting expectations?
- Are pest or disease issues becoming more common?
- Are safety risks or storm-related concerns emerging?

Note: Focus on what changed or stood out this past season



PHASE 2: ASSESS

WHAT REQUIRES ATTENTION?

- What could have been addressed earlier with proactive care?
- Which issues are aesthetic vs. structural or safety-related?
- Which problems are becoming more frequent or costly?

Note: Identify what is minor vs. what could become a larger issue



PHASE 3: PRIORITIZE

WHAT MATTERS MOST MOVING FORWARD?

- Where are disruptions or recurring issues occurring?
- What is impacting overall property condition and value?
- Which issues carry the greatest safety or financial risk?

Note: Focus on what will have the biggest impact if addressed, or ignored



PHASE 4: BUDGET

WHAT SHOULD BE PLANNED, AND WHAT CAN BE AVOIDED?

- What work should be proactively planned for next year?
- What has historically required reactive or emergency spend?
- What can be phased over time vs. addressed immediately?
- What should be included as capital vs. operational expense?

Goal: Reduce emergency work and build a more predictable budget



PHASE 5: EXECUTE

WHAT HAPPENS NEXT?

- When should work be scheduled for maximum efficiency?
- What resources or partners are needed?
- What outcomes will be measured?

Note: A clear plan helps avoid last-minute decisions and disruptions

BEFORE FINALIZING NEXT YEAR'S BUDGET

- ☐ Review tree and landscape health
- ☐ Identify recurring issues and costs
- ☐ Document deferred maintenance needs
- ☐ Prioritize safety and liability concerns
- ☐ Build a phased plan for next year



WHY THIS APPROACH WORKS

- ✓ Avoid budget surprises and unplanned expenses
- ✓ Prevent repeated issues and declining conditions
- ✓ Reduce emergency work and seasonal bottlenecks
- ✓ Minimize disruptions across the property

BETTER **PLANNING**. BETTER **PROPERTIES**.

PLAN AHEAD WITH THE RIGHT PARTNER

A proactive arborist partner helps you identify risks early, plan work at the right time, and reduce reactive decisions.

Rainbow Treecare partners with commercial property managers, corporate campuses, and managed communities across the Twin Cities to build proactive, long-term maintenance plans that improve predictability and overall property performance.

START WITH A PRE-BUDGET PROPERTY REVIEW

Rainbow Treecare™

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