



CITY OF WASHINGTON, ILLINOIS

Committee of the Whole Agenda Communication

Meeting Date: October 13, 2025

Prepared By: Dennis Carr – Interim City Administrator/City Engineer

Agenda Item: Bicentennial Gift Idea– Community Christmas Tree

Background:

While we assisted with a multitude of other activities, the City has not truly championed one of our own. The events are now largely over, but our Bicentennial year is not. Staff has been evaluating what type of participation the City could have in a Bicentennial event.

During the recent Goal Setting Session and through feedback collected via the community engagement survey, there was significant public interest in the enhancement and development of Washington Plaza. Given that the Square already hosts the nativity scene and other holiday decorations, staff is proposing that the City purchase and install a Community Christmas Tree at Washington Plaza to serve as a focal point for seasonal celebrations

Washington Plaza is primarily composed of one-story buildings, though several have façades that extend above roof level. A prominently placed Christmas tree could be installed in the parking area and designed to exceed the roofline, creating a striking visual landmark and gathering point for community festivities.

Preliminary conversations with the property owner have been positive. The owner has expressed interest in allowing part of the parking lot to be converted into a future greenspace. This area could serve as a permanent location for a Community Christmas Tree, whether live or artificial.

Options Under Consideration:

Artificial Tree:

Staff has researched several artificial panel tree providers. One supplier, Holiday Outdoor Décor, has confirmed availability and delivery by Thanksgiving. This option would not require immediate modifications to the parking lot and would allow the City to defer any permanent greenspace development for future planning. Additionally, the Township has offered use of its bucket truck to assist with assembly and decoration. Off-season storage options may also be available. The modular nature of the tree allows for additional sections to be added in future years to increase its height if so desired.

Living Tree:

Staff has contacted local nurseries and can procure an 8-foot Norwegian Spruce, which could eventually grow to 40–60 feet. However, planting a live tree in the existing parking area would

necessitate significant site preparation. This includes pavement and subbase and clay removal, topsoil installation, and sodding.

Further discussions with the property owner would be required to determine responsibility for ongoing maintenance and development of the proposed greenspace in coordination with the planning for the utilization of excess parking.

Fiscal Impact:

An artificial tree would cost in the neighborhood of \$30,000 - \$40,000.

The living 8' tree would cost between \$1,000 - \$2,000 to be tree spaded, delivered, and planted. There would also be cost in pavement removal, subbase removal, topsoil, and sodding. The size of the greenspace desired would control the price of the site work.

Funds that remain from either road maintenance or the economic development grant program could be utilized as they are in the General Fund.

Action Requested: Staff requests Council discussion on the City's potential involvement in the installation of a Community Christmas Tree at Washington Plaza, including the preferred tree option.

TREES

Why we love it
& WHY YOU WILL TOO

- Optimized frame design for easy installation and safety.
- Industry best Mountain Pine Garland™.
- Completely customizable; lamp color, topper and ornamentation.

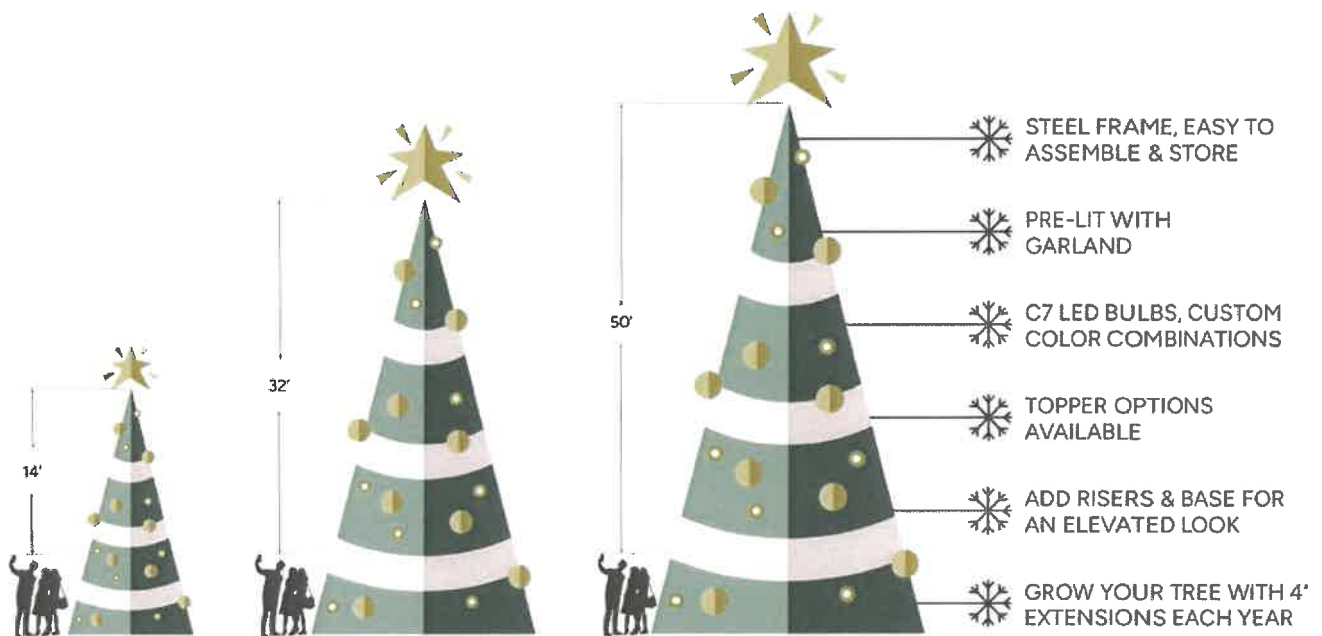
50' Panel Tree, T-50P on page 47
Custom-lighted Tree, seen on our website

Scan the QR to
view all Panel Trees
on our website



PANEL TREES

Our Panel Trees have evolved with a new optimized design that enhances both durability, visual appeal and safety. These advancements not only ensure that the trees maintain their aesthetic charm throughout the season but also provide a robust and reliable option for commercial spaces seeking a festive centerpiece that combines beauty with practicality. Ask your Design Consultant for a more detailed summary of all Panel Tree improvements!



PANEL TREE

14FT	Lamps: 435, C-7	(8' Base)	T-14P	\$6,630
18FT	Lamps: 680, C-7	(10' Base)	T-18P	\$11,565
22FT	Lamps: 995, C-7	(12' Base)	T-22P	\$18,155
26FT	Lamps: 1,325, C-7	(14.5' Base)	T-26P	\$26,060
30FT	Lamps: 1,780, C-7	(16.5' Base)	T-30P	\$36,060
34FT	Lamps: 2,305, C-7	(18.5' Base)	T-34P	\$48,740
38FT	Lamps: 2,900, C-7	(21' Base)	T-38P	\$62,910
42FT	Lamps: 3,600, C-7	(23' Base)	T-42P	\$78,535
46FT	Lamps: 4,345, C-7	(25' Base)	T-46P	\$93,075
50FT	Lamps: 5,200, C-7	(27' Base)	T-50P	\$106,535

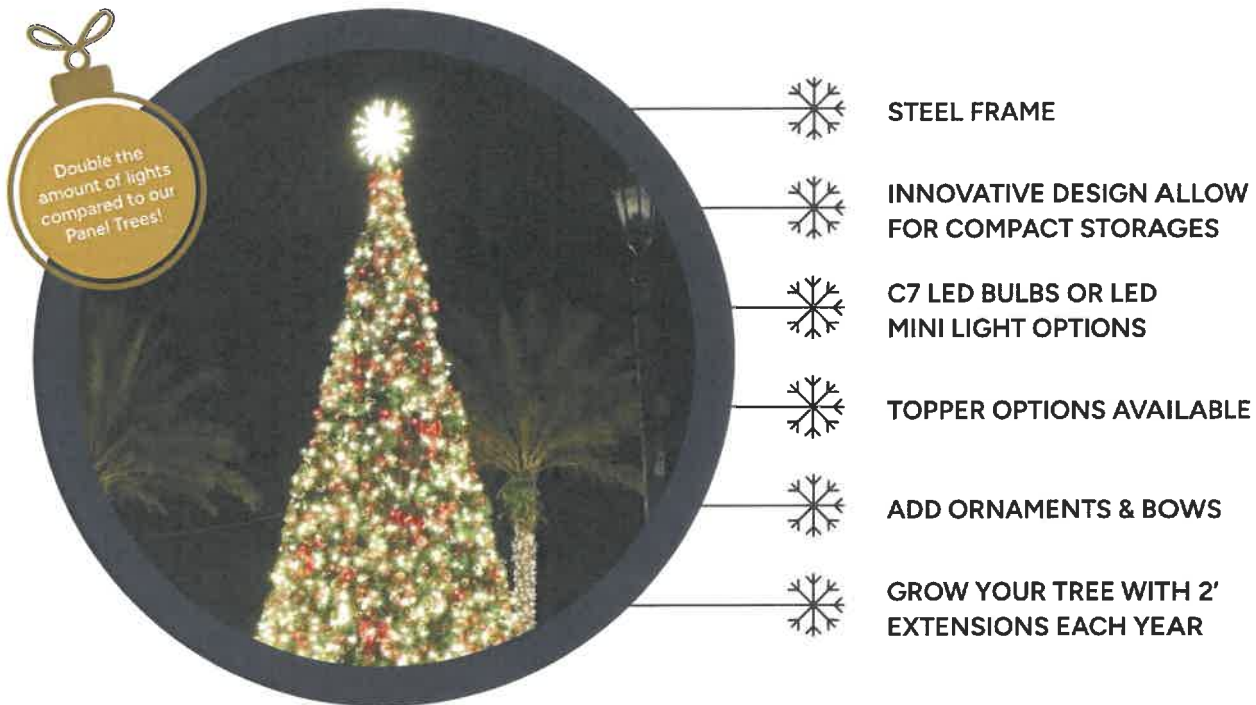
EXTENDED BRANCH

14FT	Lamps: 653, C-7	(8' Base)	T-14E	\$8,145
18FT	Lamps: 1,020, C-7	(10' Base)	T-18E	\$14,280
22FT	Lamps: 1,493, C-7	(12' Base)	T-22E	\$22,480
26FT	Lamps: 1,988, C-7	14.5' Base)	T-26E	\$32,320
30FT	Lamps: 2,670, C-7	(16.5' Base)	T-30E	\$44,840
34FT	Lamps: 3,458, C-7	(18.5' Base)	T-34E	\$60,705
38FT	Lamps: 4,350, C-7	(21' Base)	T-38E	\$78,425
42FT	Lamps: 5,400, C-7	(23' Base)	T-42E	\$97,925
46FT	Lamps: 6,518, C-7	(25' Base)	T-46E	\$115,980
50FT	Lamps: 7,800, C-7	(27' Base)Z	T-50E	\$132,535



BRANCH TREES

Our Branch Trees look and feel like the real thing. Realistic daytime look and stunning at nighttime. With UV resistant, dense branch garland and double the number of lights as our Panel Trees, your guests will be questioning that it's not the real thing.



BRANCH TREES | C7 LIGHTS

12FT	(12'H x 8'D)	T-12M-C	\$6,400
14FT	(14'H x 9'D)	T-14M-C	\$9,150
16FT	(16'H x 10'D)	T-16M-C	\$12,292
18FT	(18'H x 11'D)	T-18M-C	\$16,002
20FT	(20'H x 12'D)	T-20M-C	\$21,720
22FT	(22'H x 13'D)	T-22M-C	\$27,378
24FT	(24'H x 14'D)	T-24M-C	\$32,848
26FT	(26'H x 15'D)	T-26M-C	\$37,937
28FT	(28'H x 16'D)	T-28M-C	\$44,555
30FT	(30'H x 17'D)	T-30M-C	\$50,883
32FT	(32'H x 18'D)	T-32M-C	\$55,860
34FT	(34'H x 19'D)	T-34M-C	\$63,410
36FT	(36'H x 20'D)	T-36M-C	\$71,865
38FT	(38'H x 21'D)	T-38M-C	\$83,278
40FT	(40'H x 22'D)	T-40M-C	\$92,940
42FT	(42'H x 23'D)	T-42M-C	\$105,646
44FT	(44'H x 23'D)	T-44M-C	\$120,690
46FT	(46'H x 25'D)	T-46M-C	\$135,844
48FT	(48'H x 26'D)	T-48M-C	\$151,109
50FT	(50'H x 27'D)	T-50M-C	\$162,488

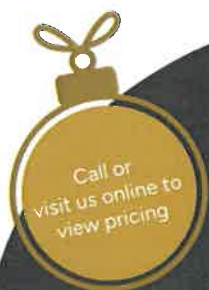
BRANCH TREES | MINI LIGHTS

12FT	(12'H x 8'D)	T-12M-5MM	\$6,250
14FT	(14'H x 9'D)	T-14M-5MM	\$8,900
16FT	(16'H x 10'D)	T-16M-5MM	\$12,168
18FT	(18'H x 11'D)	T-18M-5MM	\$15,758
20FT	(20'H x 12'D)	T-20M-5MM	\$21,110
22FT	(22'H x 13'D)	T-22M-5MM	\$25,493
24FT	(24'H x 14'D)	T-24M-5MM	\$30,360
26FT	(26'H x 15'D)	T-26M-5MM	\$35,528
28FT	(28'H x 16'D)	T-28M-5MM	\$41,248
30FT	(30'H x 17'D)	T-30M-5MM	\$47,571
32FT	(32'H x 18'D)	T-32M-5MM	\$51,895
34FT	(34'H x 19'D)	T-34M-5MM	\$58,880
36FT	(36'H x 20'D)	T-36M-5MM	\$66,365
38FT	(38'H x 21'D)	T-38M-5MM	\$76,696
40FT	(40'H x 22'D)	T-40M-5MM	\$85,150
42FT	(42'H x 23'D)	T-42M-5MM	\$96,036
44FT	(44'H x 23'D)	T-44M-5MM	\$112,238
46FT	(46'H x 25'D)	T-46M-5MM	\$126,184
48FT	(48'H x 26'D)	T-48M-5MM	\$143,884
50FT	(50'H x 27'D)	T-50M-5MM	\$154,721



TWINKLY PRO™ TREES

The perfect marriage of branch trees with smart technology, Twinkly Pro™ Trees have endless possibilities of color combinations, animations, synchronization to music and sounds all controlled on the user friendly Twinkly Pro™ App. These trees can change with the touch of your finger giving your holiday celebration a brand new show every night. All tree and lighting components are included to operate.



twinkly PRO™ TREES



USER FRIENDLY SMART TECHNOLOGY



CONTROLLED VIA TWINKLY MOBILE APP



PRE-PROGRAMMED ANIMATION LIBRARY (OR CREATE YOUR OWN!)



BRANCH TREE GARLAND



SYNC'D TO MUSIC & SOUNDS



16.8 MILLION COLOR COMBINATIONS



Scan the QR code to view pricing and trees in action on our website

