



Item: Resolution 10047 to Levy and Assess Special Improvement General Boulevard Maintenance District No. 3570

From: Judy Burg, Taxes and Assessments

Initiated By: Annual Assessment Process

Presented By: Melissa Kinzler, Fiscal Services Director

Action Requested: City Commission conduct public hearing and adopt Resolution 10047

Public Hearing:

1. Mayor conducts public hearing, calling three times each for proponents and opponents.
2. Mayor closes public hearing and asks the will of the Commission.

Suggested Motion:

1. Commissioner moves:

“I move the City Commission (adopt/deny) Resolution 10047.”

2. Mayor calls for a second, discussion, and calls for the vote.
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Background: The Park and Recreation Department, Natural Resources – Boulevard Division is responsible for the care and maintenance of over 15,000 street trees located within the General Boulevard District. Services provided within the District are pruning, removal, planting and streetscape design.

Since adoption of Resolution 3570 which created the District, the Natural Resources Division has been assigned additional duties including but not limited to Christmas light installation and leaf pick-up. The Division is having difficulty performing all functions while meeting the intent of the original resolution. The proposed work plan and FY15 budget for Natural Resources Division eliminates Flag Hill (Overlook Park) Christmas light installation, reduces tree care in parks, and reduces island maintenance in order to redirect efforts toward tree trimming.

The Natural Resources Division has identified over 1,200 trees in need of pruning. The trees could present a safety hazard (and potential exposure). Lack of trimming also significantly affects the health of the tree. Proper maintenance will prevent potential hazards and tree replacement.

The budget development process begins in January of each year when the Natural Resources – Boulevard Division receives its midyear financial reports. The midyear reports and subsequent reports are used to determine the current financial position of the department. Information is gathered regarding the actual and anticipated expenses, future projects, goals and objectives of the department.

After calculating all factors pertinent to the operation of the Natural Resources – Boulevard Division, an assessment amount for the next fiscal year is calculated, proposed and presented to the City Commissioners for approval. No recommendation for an increase was proposed for Fiscal Year 2015 budget, because it contemplated no leaf pick-up. After reviewing the matter further with Public Works Department Streets and Storm Utility, leaf pick-up will need to continue.

In order to legally provide for the necessary assessment support, State laws require City Commission hearings and passage of authorizing resolutions. Section 7-12-4102, 7-12-4176 and 7-12-4179 M.C.A. authorizes the City Commission to create and assess the costs of work, improvements, and maintenance to the owners of property within the boundaries of such district.

As part of the annual budget development and adoption procedures, the Special Improvement General Boulevard Maintenance District Assessment Resolution must be submitted for City Commission action. A public notice and hearing is required prior to final passage of the assessment resolution.

Concurrences: Park and Recreation staff is responsible for the operation expenses of the Boulevard District Fund. Fiscal Services staff is responsible for assessing and collecting the revenues necessary to carry out the operations. The City Commissioners have received information regarding the condition of the Boulevard District and the Natural Resources Fund operations during the annual budget process.

Fiscal Impact: Adoption of Resolution 10047 will allow the City to finance the costs of work, improvements, and maintenance conducted each year in the special improvement boulevard maintenance district.

The reality of the current assessment is that it is not enough to cover additional resources needed (personnel and equipment) to complete both an effective tree pruning schedule (or hire an outside company to perform the function) and leaf pick-up. Additionally, the current assessment does not allow the division to place money in the Equipment Revolving Fund to replace aging equipment.

The anticipated assessment amount for General Boulevard Maintenance for the next fiscal year is the amount reflected in the FY 2015 Budget. The General Boulevard Area assessment will remain the same as last fiscal year. This equates to an assessment factor of \$0.008985 per square foot, for a total of \$318,856 and will result in an assessment of \$67.39 for an average size lot of 7,500 square feet (7,500 sq ft x 0.008985 factor = \$67.39.)

Alternatives: The City Commission could choose not to adopt Resolution 10047. The result would be no tree maintenance (trim, prune, spray, water and maintain the trees) within the district for FY2015. Overall tree health would be effected as well as the safety, shelter and beauty provided by the street trees to the community.

Attachments/Exhibits: Resolution 10047
Map of General Boulevard District
Legal Notice

RESOLUTION NO. 10047

A RESOLUTION LEVYING AND ASSESSING THE COST OF MAINTAINING BOULEVARDS IN THE GENERAL BOULEVARD DISTRICT NO. 3570 OF THE CITY OF GREAT FALLS, MONTANA FOR THE FISCAL YEAR BEGINNING JULY 1, 2014 AND ENDING JUNE 30, 2015

WHEREAS, the City Commission did create a General Boulevard Maintenance District No. 3570 by Resolution 3570 on January 2, 1946; and

WHEREAS, the City Commission did amend and exclude Lots 8-14, Block 34 of Boston and Great Falls Addition, from the boundaries of the General Boulevard District by Resolution 8132 on September 1, 1987, in accordance with § 7-12-4335, MCA; and

WHEREAS, the City intends to continue trimming, pruning, spraying, and otherwise maintaining the trees within said district, except when such maintenance conflicts with other provisions of the Official Code of the City of Great Falls; and

WHEREAS, on July 15, 2014, the City Commission adopted Resolution 10080, Annual Budget Resolution, in which the estimated costs of such maintenance within the General Boulevard Maintenance District No. 3570 was reflected as THREE HUNDRED EIGHTEEN THOUSAND EIGHT HUNDRED FIFTY-SIX DOLLARS (\$318,856); and

WHEREAS, in accordance with § 7-1-4127, MCA, notice was published setting forth that Resolution No. 10047 Levying and Assessing the Cost of Maintaining Boulevards in the General Boulevard Maintenance District No. 3570 would be brought before the Great Falls City Commission for public hearing on August 5, 2014.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF GREAT FALLS, MONTANA, that:

Section 1 – Maintenance Costs Assessed

The cost of maintaining boulevards in General Boulevard Maintenance District No. 3570, totaling \$318,856, be levied and assessed upon the properties in said district for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2015.

Section 2 – Maintenance Assessment Method

Each lot and parcel within the district be assessed in proportion to its square footage. The procedure for determining the square footage to be assessed is the total square footage as set forth in Exhibit “A” of Resolution 6202 adopted by the Great Falls City Commission on July 22, 1968, and presently on file in the office of the City Clerk.

Section 3 – Assessment Due Date

Assessments are payable in two payments and will become delinquent at 5:00 o'clock p.m. on November 30, 2014 and May 31, 2015.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the City Commission of the City of Great Falls, Montana, this 5th day of August, 2014.

Michael J. Winters, Mayor

ATTEST:

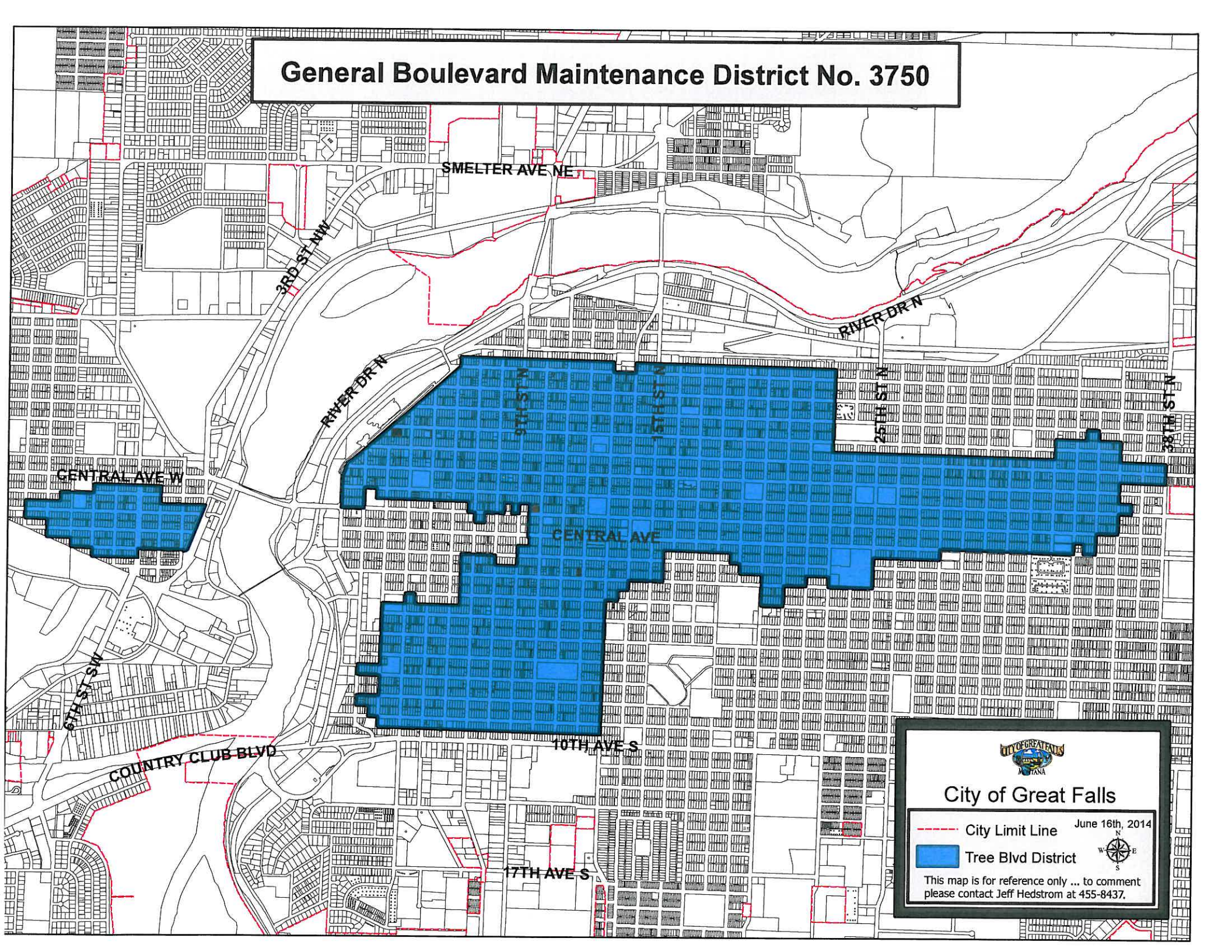
Lisa Kunz, City Clerk

(Seal of the City)

APPROVED FOR LEGAL CONTENT:

Sara R. Sexe, City Attorney

General Boulevard Maintenance District No. 3750



City of Great Falls

- City Limit Line
- Tree Blvd District

June 16th, 2014



This map is for reference only ... to comment please contact Jeff Hedstrom at 455-8437.

PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Resolution 10047 – A Resolution Levying and Assessing the Cost of Maintaining Boulevards in the General Boulevard District No. 3570 of the City of Great Falls, Montana for the Fiscal Year Beginning July 1, 2014 and ending June 30, 2015 – will be brought before the Great Falls City Commission for public hearing in the Commission Chambers, Civic Center Building, 2 Park Drive South, Great Falls, Montana on Tuesday, August 5, 2014, at 7:00 o'clock p.m. Any interested person may appear and speak for or against said Resolution 10047 or submit in writing any comments to the City Clerk prior to or during the Commission Meeting.

/s/ Lisa Kunz
City Clerk

DO NOT PUBLISH BELOW THIS LINE:
Publication Dates: July 11 & 18, 2014.