

Missoula County Media Release

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Exterior Courthouse Renovation Work Continues, Trees Arriving

Passersby will see some exciting components of the fifth and final phase of the Missoula County Courthouse renovation project today and in the coming weeks. After tilling and grading is complete, new sod will be installed on the lawn.

Red Sunset Maple trees are pending shipment from Seattle to replace the Norway Maples previously planted on the lawn. The trees will be shipped once they are dormant and are better equipped to withstand transport and replanting. The dormant trees will not have leaves and will be planted at the end of the season, ensuring that come spring, healthy trees will bring the courthouse landscape back to life.

Red Sunset Maples are a cultivar which are created to perform better in the built environment than pure species. So, while the red maple species is native to North America, the Red Sunset cultivar does not exist in nature. The Red Sunset Maple is on the City of Missoula's approved tree list.

The trees will be two inches in diameter, providing the community with many years to enjoy their foliage and return original design order and dignity to landscaping surrounding the courthouse.

Because much of the exterior work is taking place in the fall, fencing will remain in place through the spring of 2018. The lawn will, like the trees, go dormant over the winter. With protection from fencing scheduled to remain in place over the winter, the new sod will have the opportunity to root-in prior to removal of the fence.

This phase of the courthouse renovation project focuses on the building exterior including updating the irrigation, restoring the World War I Doughboy statue, and installing original restored copper entrance doors to the east, south, and west entrances of the courthouse.

County project staff worked to ensure cost savings along the way, scaling back scopes of work to provide the desired design at the lowest cost of \$790,778.

A frequently asked questions document is attached to this release to address many of the questions received as work and construction continues.

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