

## Marcia Moermond

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**From:** Rachel Coyle  
**Sent:** Thursday, June 29, 2023 10:28 AM  
**To:** Marcia Moermond  
**Subject:** RE: Boulevard Raised Garden Beds

Hi Marcia,

Tree roots won't be impacted greatly by installation of raised beds. Our main concern would be elimination of planting sites—these are obviously installed in open spaces which does lead to that potential and further for residents to request we not plant trees adjacent to the beds or even remove trees as they prefer full sun. While we appreciate and understand the solar requirements of various types of plants, the boulevard is the *only space* on streets that we have to plant public property trees—which benefit more than just the adjacent property owner. We are all for beautifying the boulevard—we can plant trees in gardens, but we cannot in raised garden beds such as these.

I've been told by my team that about 5-10% of the addresses we intend to plant and subsequently do not based on request of the adjacent property owner are related to garden beds/raised beds on the boulevard so while it's a relatively small number, I would suspect it will only grow.

I think the removal of these will become problematic as well—as properties turn over and new owners don't do anything with them or otherwise. We've come across numerous cases of various materials installed around trees (rock, landscape block or other material) that property owners fail to remove once the tree is removed. Due to this and the extra cost associated with removing that material, we've had to add a line item to our stump removal contracts for this. Essentially this cost is being paid by all taxpayers for those who install things on the boulevard and do not maintain or remove them. I honestly don't see these being much different and don't agree that the burden be spread out to others.

Lastly, why would anyone want to eat something that is grown 3' away from a road?! Pollutants from cars (particulates and heavy metals), asphalt, road salts, etc—yuck, it doesn't matter if it's in a raised bed. Most residences have adequate room on the property to support these, IMO that's where they belong.

Thanks for asking 😊.

Rachel

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**From:** Marcia Moermond <marcia.moermond@ci.stpaul.mn.us>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, June 28, 2023 10:52 AM  
**To:** Rachel Coyle <rachel.coyle@ci.stpaul.mn.us>  
**Subject:** Boulevard Raised Garden Beds

Hi Rachel,

I've got some cases coming through these days for installations of raised beds in boulevards. This is obviously mostly an ROW issue with PW. However, Parks/Forestry does come up. I know tree roots are potentially impacted. What are your

thoughts on these situations and what are the things you think should be considered when looking at these cases?  
Below are a couple of photos. Thank you! -Marcia

