

# August 2024 Windstorm

A Financial & Operational Impact Report for the City of Hamilton

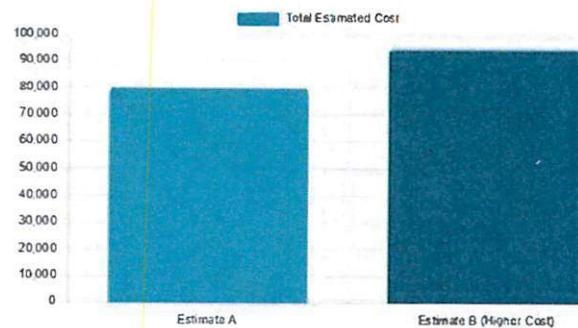
Total Estimated Financial Impact (Scenario B)

# \$94,849

In August 2024, a severe windstorm caused widespread damage across Hamilton, Montana. This report details the significant impact on public property and infrastructure, breaking down the extensive costs associated with the city's cleanup and repair efforts, from direct labor and equipment use to large-scale tree removal and facility repairs.

## Comparing Total Cost Estimates

The city developed two financial scenarios primarily based on variable market rates for specialized tree work. Estimate B reflects potentially higher costs for these contracted services, representing the upper-end of the financial impact.

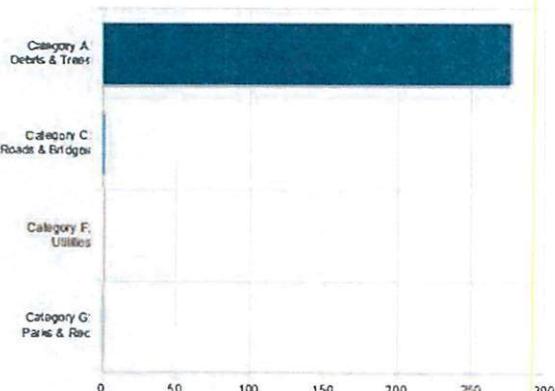


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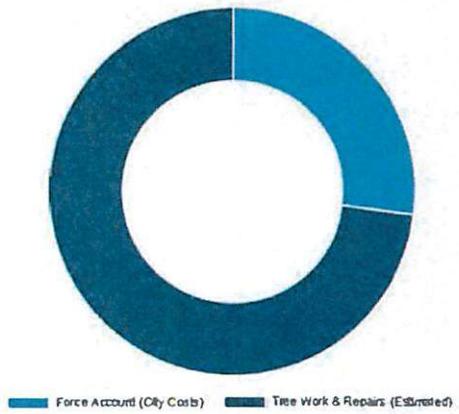
### Damage Incidents by Category

The storm's impact was widespread, but debris removal and tree-related issues comprised the vast majority of individual damage incidents logged by the city, requiring an extensive operational response.



### Cost Breakdown (Estimate B)

Under the higher cost scenario, an estimated 73% of the total financial impact is tied to tree work and other repairs, with the remaining 27% representing the cost of the city's direct labor and equipment response.

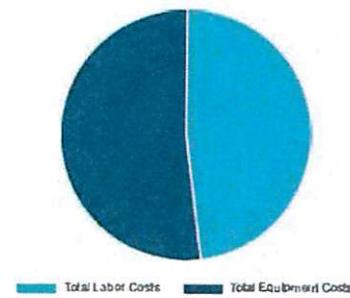


### The City's Immediate Response: Force Account Costs

City departments mobilized immediately, deploying personnel and equipment for cleanup and emergency repairs. These "Force Account" costs represent the direct, internal expenses incurred. Equipment costs slightly edged out labor costs, reflecting the need for heavy machinery in debris removal operations.

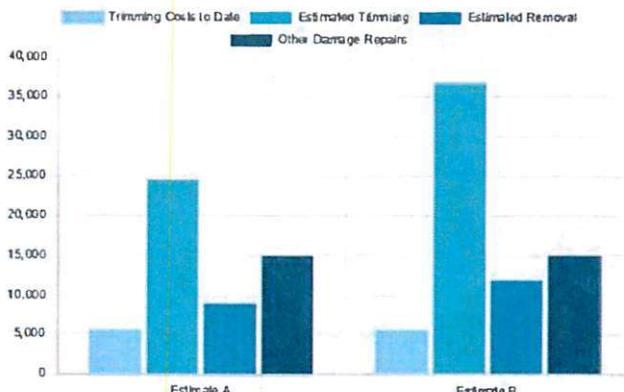
**\$25,649**

Total Direct City Cost



## A Closer Look: Tree Work Costs

The most significant variable in the financial estimates is the cost of tree trimming and removal. The chart below visualizes the cost components for both scenarios, highlighting how much of the budget is allocated to estimated trimming versus complete tree removals.



## Key Infrastructure & Facility Damage

### Wastewater Plant Fence



The perimeter fence at this critical facility was smashed by a large fallen tree, requiring repair.

### City Signage



Multiple city signs, including a Wayfinding and a Tree City USA sign, were destroyed when their support poles snapped.

### Parks & Rec Fencing



Fencing at both the BMX Track and the Vester Wilson Athletic Complex was damaged by wind and falling trees.