

Street Tree Preservation -- No. 500700

Category
Subcategory
Administering Agency
Planning Area

Transportation
Highway Maintenance
Transportation
Countywide

Date Last Modified
Required Adequate Public Facility
Relocation Impact
Status

March 18, 2009
No
None.
On-going

EXPENDITURE SCHEDULE (\$000)

Cost Element	Total	Thru FY08	Rem. FY08	Total 6 Years	FY09	FY10	FY11	FY12	FY13	FY14	Beyond 6 Years
Planning, Design, and Supervision	1,268	68	40	1,160	210	110	210	210	210	210	0
Land	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Site Improvements and Utilities	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Construction	13,527	3,187	0	10,340	790	390	1,790	1,790	2,790	2,790	0
Other	5	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	14,800	3,260	40	11,500	1,000	500	2,000	2,000	3,000	3,000	*

FUNDING SCHEDULE (\$000)

Current Revenue: General	14,342	3,260	40	11,042	1,000	42	2,000	2,000	3,000	3,000	0
Land Sale	458	0	0	458	0	458	0	0	0	0	0
Total	14,800	3,260	40	11,500	1,000	500	2,000	2,000	3,000	3,000	0

DESCRIPTION

This project provides for the preservation of street trees through proactive pruning that will include the removal of limbs to: reduce safety hazards to pedestrians and motorists; preserve the health and longevity of trees; correct structural imbalances/defects; improve aesthetics and adjacent property values; and improve sight distance. Proactive pruning will prevent premature deterioration, minimize liability, reduce storm damage potential and costs, improve appearance and enhance the condition of street trees.

COST CHANGE

Reduce funding and expenditures for fiscal capacity in FY10

JUSTIFICATION

Prior to FY84 the County provided for scheduled cyclical pruning every six years for all trees in the old Suburban District. This work was funded through the dedicated Suburban District Tax. Between FY84 and FY97, fiscal constraints caused a reduction in pruning to a 40-90 year cycle. In FY97, the County eliminated the Suburban District Tax and expanded its street tree maintenance program from the old Suburban District to include the entire County and the street tree population increased from an estimated 100,000 to over 250,000 trees. Since that time, only pruning in reaction to emergency/safety concerns has been provided. A street tree has a life expectancy of 60 years and, under current conditions, a majority of street trees will never receive any pruning. Lack of cyclical pruning leads to increased storm damage and cleanup costs, right-of-way obstruction and safety hazards to pedestrians and motorists, premature death and decay from disease, weakening of structural integrity, and increased public security risks. Healthy street trees provide a myriad of public benefits including energy savings, aesthetic enhancements that soften the hard edges of buildings and pavements, property value enhancement, mitigation of various airborne pollutants, reduction in the urban heat island effect, and stormwater management enhancement. Various CIP projects provide for the preservation, revitalization, restoration, or protection of all types of public infrastructure.

The "Forest Preservation Strategy" Task Force Report (October, 2000) recommends the development of a "green infrastructure" CIP project for street tree maintenance. The "Forest Preservation Strategy Update" (July, 2004) reinforced the need for a CIP project that addresses street trees. Also, see recommendations in the inter-agency study of tree management practices by the Office of Legislative Oversight (Report #2004-8 - September, 2004) and the Tree Inventory Report and Management Plan by Appraisal, Consulting, Research, and Training Inc. (November, 1995). Studies have shown that healthy trees provide significant year-round energy savings. Winter windbreaks can lower heating costs by 10 to 20 percent and summer shade can lower cooling costs by 15 to 35 percent. Every tree that is planted and maintained saves \$20 in energy costs per year. In addition, a healthy street tree canopy captures the first 1/2 inch of rainfall reducing the need for stormwater management facilities.

OTHER DISCLOSURES

- * Expenditures will continue indefinitely.

APPROPRIATION AND EXPENDITURE DATA		
Date First Appropriation	FY07	(\$000)
First Cost Estimate	FY10	14,800
Current Scope		
Last FY's Cost Estimate		15,300
Appropriation Request	FY10	500
Supplemental Appropriation Request		0
Transfer		0
Cumulative Appropriation		4,300
Expenditures / Encumbrances		3,263
Unencumbered Balance		1,037
Partial Closeout Thru	FY07	0
New Partial Closeout	FY08	0
Total Partial Closeout		0

COORDINATION

Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission
Department of Environmental Protection
Maryland Department of Natural Resources
Utility companies

MAP

