

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

January 04, 2011
No
None.
On-going

EXPENDITURE SCHEDULE (\$000)

Cost Element	Total	Thru FY10	Rem. FY10	Total 6 Years	FY11	FY12	FY13	FY14	FY15	FY16	Beyond 6 Years
Planning, Design, and Supervision	2,212	54	63	2,095	40	255	450	450	450	450	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	16,532	4,677	0	11,855	210	1,445	2,550	2,550	2,550	2,550	0
Other	6	6	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	18,750	4,737	63	13,950	250	1,700	3,000	3,000	3,000	3,000	*

FUNDING SCHEDULE (\$000)

Current Revenue: General	18,292	4,279	63	13,950	250	1,700	3,000	3,000	3,000	3,000	0
Land Sale	458	458	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	18,750	4,737	63	13,950	250	1,700	3,000	3,000	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 project scope and current revenue by \$300,000 in FY12 for fiscal capacity.

JUSTIFICATION

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 200,000 to over 400,000 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 unless a hazardous situation occurs. 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, increased public security risks, and increased liability claims. Healthy street trees that have been pruned on a regular cycle better provide a myriad of public benefits including energy savings, a safer environment, 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 storm water management enhancement.

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 storm water management facilities.

OTHER DISCLOSURES

- * Expenditures will continue indefinitely.

APPROPRIATION AND EXPENDITURE DATA	COORDINATION	MAP												
<table border="1"> <tr> <td>Date First Appropriation</td> <td>FY07</td> <td>(\$000)</td> </tr> <tr> <td>First Cost Estimate</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Current Scope</td> <td>FY12</td> <td>18,750</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Last FY's Cost Estimate</td> <td></td> <td>19,050</td> </tr> </table>	Date First Appropriation	FY07	(\$000)	First Cost Estimate			Current Scope	FY12	18,750	Last FY's Cost Estimate		19,050	<p>Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission Department of Environmental Protection Maryland Department of Natural Resources Utility companies</p>	
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