

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 09, 2010
No
None.
On-going

EXPENDITURE SCHEDULE (\$000)

Cost Element	Total	Thru FY09	Est. FY10	Total 6 Years	FY11	FY12	FY13	FY14	FY15	FY16	Beyond 6 Years
Planning, Design, and Supervision	2,568	53	375	2,140	40	300	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	16,477	4,067	300	12,110	210	1,700	2,550	2,550	2,550	2,550	0
Other	5	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	19,050	4,125	675	14,250	250	2,000	3,000	3,000	3,000	3,000	*

FUNDING SCHEDULE (\$000)

Current Revenue: General	18,592	4,125	217	14,250	250	2,000	3,000	3,000	3,000	3,000	0
Land Sale	458	0	458	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	19,050	4,125	675	14,250	250	2,000	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

Increase due to addition of FY15-16 to this ongoing level of effort project, offset by other adjustments 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

Date First Appropriation	FY07	(\$000)
First Cost Estimate		
Current Scope	FY11	19,050
Last FY's Cost Estimate		14,800

Appropriation Request	FY11	250
Appropriation Request Est.	FY12	2,000
Supplemental Appropriation Request		0
Transfer		0

Cumulative Appropriation	4,800
Expenditures / Encumbrances	4,252
Unencumbered Balance	548

Partial Closeout Thru	FY08	0
New Partial Closeout	FY09	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

