

# 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 08, 2012  
No  
None.  
On-going

## EXPENDITURE SCHEDULE (\$000)

Cost Element	Total	Thru FY11	Est. FY12	Total 6 Years	FY13	FY14	FY15	FY16	FY17	FY18	Beyond 6 Years
Planning, Design, and Supervision	4,107	59	298	3,750	450	600	600	600	750	750	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	27,287	4,806	1,231	21,250	2,550	3,400	3,400	3,400	4,250	4,250	0
Other	6	5	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>31,400</b>	<b>4,870</b>	<b>1,530</b>	<b>25,000</b>	<b>3,000</b>	<b>4,000</b>	<b>4,000</b>	<b>4,000</b>	<b>5,000</b>	<b>5,000</b>	<b>*</b>

## FUNDING SCHEDULE (\$000)

Current Revenue: General	30,942	4,412	1,530	25,000	3,000	4,000	4,000	4,000	5,000	5,000	0
Land Sale	458	458	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>31,400</b>	<b>4,870</b>	<b>1,530</b>	<b>25,000</b>	<b>3,000</b>	<b>4,000</b>	<b>4,000</b>	<b>4,000</b>	<b>5,000</b>	<b>5,000</b>	<b>0</b>

### DESCRIPTION

This project provides for the preservation of street trees through proactive pruning that will reduce hazardous situations to pedestrians and motorists, help reduce power outages in the county, preserve the health and longevity of trees, decrease property damage incurred from tree debris during storms, correct structural imbalances/defects that cause future hazardous situations and that shorten the lifespan of the trees, improve aesthetics and adjacent property values, improve sight distance for increased safety, and provide clearance from street lights for a safer environment. Proactive pruning will prevent premature deterioration, decrease liability, reduce storm damage potential and costs, improve appearance, and enhance the condition of street trees.

### COST CHANGE

Increased annual budget by \$1 million in FY14-16; Increase also due to the addition of FY17-18 to this ongoing level of effort project at an increased level.

### 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. The street tree population has now 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.

Failure to prune trees in a timely manner can result in trees becoming diseased or damaged and pose a threat to public safety. Over the long-term, it is more cost effective if scheduled maintenance is performed.

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. (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	FY13	31,400
Last FY's Cost Estimate		18,400
Appropriation Request	FY13	3,000
Appropriation Request Est.	FY14	4,000
Supplemental Appropriation Request		0
Transfer		0
Cumulative Appropriation		6,400
Expenditures / Encumbrances		4,884
Unencumbered Balance		1,516
Partial Closeout Thru	FY10	0
New Partial Closeout	FY11	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

