

III. A.



DATE: May 12, 2009
TO: Planning & Public Works Committee
FROM: Brian McGownd, PWD\CE

**SUBJECT: Street Tree Update – Residential Street Tree Program
Tree Removals
T.R.I.M. Grant**

This memo will serve as an update of the status of our street trees, specifically updates regarding the Residential Street Tree Program and our tree removal efforts to date. Discussion regarding a T.R.I.M. grant application is also included.

Residential Street Tree Program

As you can see from the attached memo prepared by Mindy Mohrman, City Arborist/Urban Forester, the Residential Street Tree Program has successfully planted 42 trees since it's inception in the Fall of 2008. Although the number of applications received is lower than anticipated, we fully expect to receive more applications as property owners become aware of the program. We continue to include articles in the newsletter about the program, and our website contains program information. The 2009 budget contains \$75,000 in account no.001-072-5242 for this program.

Tree Removals

Regarding the status of tree removals, please see the following table:

Year	Contracted Removals	In-House Removals	Total Removals	Total Cost of Contracted Removals **	In-House Man Hours Expended
2008	116	260	376	\$99,300.00	1065
2009*	72	75	147	\$51,700.00	571

*Through May 8, 2009

** Total Cost includes both tree and stump contracted removals.

As we have discussed in the past, the number of tree removals have been increasing over the last few years, and we fully anticipate this trend to continue, and to accelerate. The primary reason for this increase is simply due to the age of our street trees. As the trees age, they become more susceptible to damage from storms and insects. The 2009 budget contains \$100,000 in account no. 001-072-5251 for tree and stump removals.

T.R.I.M. Grant

Per the attached memo prepared by Mrs. Mohrman, Staff recommends that the City apply for a T.R.I.M. grant for the development of a street tree inventory. An inventory would assist us in effectively managing our street trees. The inventory would allow us to budget and plan removals,

Street Tree Update

May 12, 2009

Page 2 of 2

schedule tree maintenance, and increase species diversity, which will provide for a healthier urban forest.

The T.R.I.M. grant is in the amount of \$10,000, and a minimum local match of 25%, or \$2,500 is required. It is anticipated that a full street tree inventory of the entire city will cost approximately \$67,500. Therefore, it will be necessary to phase the inventory over a few years, with the anticipation of applying for and receiving future grants to cover a portion of the cost. For this first T.R.I.M. grant application, we recommend providing a local match of \$10,000 which would be funded from excess funds that are available in the Residential Street Tree Program account no. 001-072-5242. By providing a \$10,000 match, a total of \$20,000 will be used for the first phase of the inventory which will provide for a good start, and will allow us to better determine the cost of future phases.

Therefore, Staff requests approval to apply for a T.R.I.M. grant for the first phase of a city wide street tree inventory, and to fund the local match of \$10,000 from the Residential Street Tree Program account no. 001-072-5242.

If you need additional information or have any questions please advise.

attachments

cc: Mike Herring, City Administrator
Mike Geisel, Director of Planning & Public Works
Mike O'Connor, Superintendent of Maintenance Operations
Mindy Mohrman, City Arborist/Urban Forester



DATE: May 11, 2009

TO: Brian McGownd, PWD\CE

FROM: Mindy Mohrman, City Arborist/Urban Forester *MM*

SUBJECT: Residential Street Tree Program

As you are aware, the Planning & Public Works Committee directed the Public Works division to develop a Residential Street Tree Program in the Fall of 2008. The program provides for the planting of trees within City right of way along public residential streets. Residents contribute \$100.00 per tree, and choose from the City's Street Tree List to have a tree planted in an appropriate space.

This program has successfully resulted in two planting projects so far, one in the Fall of 2008 and one in the Spring of 2009. We are currently collecting applications for future projects, so the Fall 2009 numbers reflect what we have collected so far. The deadline for Fall applications is August 31.

The results of these projects are as follows:

Year	Total Number of Applications	Approved	Denied	Total Number of Trees Planted	Project Cost	Total Cost to the City *
2008	14	12	2	14	\$2,290	\$890.00
2009 spr	18	18	0	28	\$4,750	\$1,950
2009 fall	14	14	0	22	XX	XX

*Adjusted to include residents' \$100.00 per tree contribution

It should be noted that the first planting project was completed before the program was advertised. After the program was advertised in the Chesterfield Citizen Newsletter, the number of trees planted doubled. However, many residents are still unaware of the program. I expect participation to continue to grow rapidly as news of the program spreads. Thus far, residents have been excited to learn about the program, and I have received only positive feedback. For the 2009 year there is \$75,000.00 budgeted for this program.

If you need additional information or have any questions please advise.



DATE: May 11, 2009

TO: Brian McGownd, PWD\CE

FROM: Mindy Mohrman, City Arborist/Urban Forester *MJM*

SUBJECT: T.R.I.M Grant- Street Tree Inventory

You may recall that we have discussed the possibility of using a tree inventory to help manage the street trees throughout the city. A street tree inventory is a valuable resource that would allow us to more effectively manage our city trees by collecting data such as species, size, condition rating and maintenance needs, which includes noting dead or hazardous trees that need to be removed. The information obtained can be used to assist us in scheduling tree maintenance, as well as making budget projections for tree removals and tree planting. With the inventory we will be able to more easily facilitate the Street Tree Planting Program's main goal of increasing species diversity. The inventory can also be a simple way to assess storm damage, allowing us to collect insurance and report damage to FEMA.

I would like to recommend that we apply for a T.R.I.M Grant in order to help cover the cost of establishing a tree inventory. The Tree Resource Improvement and Maintenance (T.R.I.M.) Program is a competitive cost-share program provided and administered by the Missouri Department of Conservation. The purpose of the program is to provide financial assistance for the management, improvement or conservation of community forests. We can use the T.R.I.M funds to hire a consultant to perform the development/data collection for an inventory of all of our street trees. The consultant will then set up a program that is complimentary to software that we already use- in our case the inventory would be set up to tie into our current GIS system. The software would then allow us to enter information as trees are removed, trimmed, or planted in order to keep the information accurate.

The T.R.I.M. Grant offers a maximum funding per project of \$10,000.00. Funds are awarded on a matching basis, and all projects are eligible for a 60% match. The City of Chesterfield is eligible for an additional 15% bonus match due to our Tree City USA status. This means that if grant funds were awarded the City would need to fund 25% of the cost of the project. If the project was funded, it would need to be completed by May 1, 2010. At that time, the City would submit documentation to the Missouri Department of Conservation for reimbursement.

Current estimates project that a tree inventory of the entire city would cost approximately \$67,500.00. In the past, many cities have phased their inventory projects over a few years to receive multiple T.R.I.M Grants to help cover the cost. It is my recommendation that Chesterfield plan on phasing the tree inventory into separate projects, and apply for T.R.I.M. grants in successive years to help cover the cost of the rest of the project phases. There are benefits to phasing the inventory beyond the possibility of obtaining more grant funds. At this point, it is very difficult to make an accurate estimate of the number of trees throughout the city. After the first phase of the project is completed, we will have a much better idea of the proportion of our urban forest and can plan the rest of the project accordingly.

Please be aware that the deadline for T.R.I.M. applications is June 1, 2009, so time is of the essence. If you have any questions or need further information, please advise.