

ITEM 13
MANAGER'S REPORT NO. 4
COUNCIL MEETING 1979 01 15

RE: STREET TREE PLANTING PROGRAM 1978

RECOMMENDATION:

1. THAT this report be received for information purposes.

REPORT

At a recent Council meeting, information was requested concerning the Corporation's boulevard tree planting program, with particular emphasis to (1) the general areas designated for tree planting, and (2) why trees are being planted within 8 feet of 40 to 60 foot high fir trees.

The streets on which trees are to be planted are selected jointly by the Planning and Parks Departments who compile a report and lay it before the Capital Improvement Program Committee. Any objections are recorded and the program, or program as amended, goes forward to the Parks Department. Park's staff select the varieties of trees most suitable to the streets concerned, and proceeds with the work. As it turned out, instead of planting 800 trees as approved by the C.I.P., for a variety of reasons only 711 were or are being planted.

The attached report dated 1978 February 21 from the Director of Planning to the Chairman, C.I.P. Committee, outlines the guidelines as previously agreed to by the Committee, and the recommended program for the year. Because the attachment to this report contains detailed information of a technical nature and consists of many pages, it is not being forwarded at this time. Any member of Council or the public wishing to review this document may do so by contacting the Manager's office.

By the time the enquiry was made in Council, 1978 December 18, most of the trees had been planted. About 10 percent of the trees remain to be planted.

3. There should be no severe technical problems such as steep banks or planting strips of inadequate width to support the trees. (Of course if there is a portion only with steep banks, etc. this would not preclude the planting of the balance of the street.)
4. Arterials and collectors should generally receive a higher priority than local residential streets. (Streets receiving use by large numbers of people should be considered before streets used by only a few people.)
5. If there are requests by groups of people for tree planting on their street, the street should be assigned high priority, (but subject to numbers 1 - 4 above).
6. Streets with relatively dense pedestrian flows should receive a higher priority than streets with lighter pedestrian use.
7. Streets with relatively heavy automobile traffic should receive a higher priority than streets with lower traffic volumes. The reasoning here is not only that more vehicle occupants see the trees but that trees can do much to purify air polluted by emissions from large quantities of automobiles.

D. THE 1978 PROGRAM

Appendix "A" attached hereto includes the proposed 1978 tree planting program. It may be noted that consistent with guideline number 4 above the program contains primarily streets in the collector or arterial categories.

Street plans indicating the intended location of trees with respect to underground services and distances from walkways, curbs and property lines have been prepared and included within this report to provide an assessment of the feasibility of the projects. However, it should be recognized that this list of street boulevards proposed for planting is subject to such detailed onsite surveys as may be considered necessary by the Parks and Recreation Department, such as soil surveys, determination of depth of utilities, etc. Also it is realized that the precise location of trees must be done onsite.

For the purpose of preparing estimates, an average cost of \$ 40 per tree in place has been assumed and a 45 foot spacing allowed between trees.

E. TREES ON LOCAL STREETS WHICH ALREADY HAVE SERVICES

Local Improvement Programs for curbs, gutters and sidewalks now include for each street to be improved, where it is practical to do so, the provision of boulevard trees. But the residents of streets which already have curb, gutter or sidewalks should, we consider, also have an opportunity to have boulevard trees.

The 1978 program as indicated on Appendix "A" comprises streets in the arterial or collector category. But we believe that local streets should be included in future programs, as well as arterials and collectors.

Planting trees on local streets which are already improved can be on the basis of responding to verbal or written requests. Any such requests should be recorded and if it is practical to do so such streets should be included in future planting programs. In the absence of local requests the municipality should take the initiative.

ITEM	13
MANAGER'S REPORT NO.	4
COUNCIL MEETING	1979 01 15

On the basis of these estimates the maintenance cost for the first three years would be as follows for the 1244 trees planted through the 1978 program:

	1st and 2nd year combined	3rd year
All flowering trees	\$3,483	\$4,727
All shade trees	2,488	2,239
50% flowering - 50% shade trees	2,985	3,483

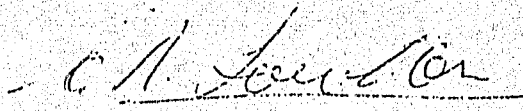
H. A CONTINUING ANNUAL PROGRAM

To be effective there should be systematic planting, year by year. Each year streets should be selected for planting based on public requests and on the kinds of criteria and guidelines referred to above. Each year a carefully worked out program should be prepared jointly by the Parks and Recreation Department and the Planning Department.

I. RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended THAT:

1. The C. I. P. Committee approve this program in principle, with \$50,000 funding from the 1978 annual budget, and \$50,000 annually thereafter.
2. The 1978 Program be referred to the Parks and Recreation Department for administration and implementation, including the preparation of the planting design, specifications and administration of a tender call.
3. The Parks and Recreation Department and the Planning Department to henceforth jointly prepare a boulevard tree planting program on an annual basis.


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DIRECTOR OF PLANNING.

CRL/hf

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