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**TO:** CITY MANAGER **DATE:** 2010 September 08  
**FROM:** DIRECTOR ENGINEERING **FILE:** 69000 01  
**SUBJECT:** STREET TREE PLANTING  
**PURPOSE:** To provide information on street tree planting in the City of Burnaby.

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**RECOMMENDATION:**

1. **THAT** Council receive this report for information
2. **THAT** a copy of this report be forwarded to Ms. Farrell at #301 – 6366 Cassie Ave, Burnaby BC V5H 2W5

**REPORT****1.0 INTRODUCTION**

Council, at its regular meeting of 2010 July 12, received a delegation that requested Council consider funding street tree planting as a separate item in the Capital Budget. The delegation expressed concerns that while the City does require tree planting as part of new development and Local Area Service Programs (LASP), there are additional areas where tree planting should be considered. The delegation highlighted the benefits of street tree planting, including beautification, shade, increased property values and enhancing the environment, among others. The delegation also noted that the City does not have a specific budget for street tree planting and would benefit from such a budget to allow for planting of trees outside the specified areas. The purpose of this report is to respond to the points made by the delegation.

**2.0 DISCUSSION**

Staff estimate that there are approximately 60,000 street trees within the City. These trees have been planted on finished streets over a number of years through various programs including the Major Roads, Local Area Service Program (LASP), Beautification and major civic building capital program initiatives as well as being part of the servicing requirements for both residential and commercial developments. Current 2010 budget for these capital programs totals \$3,750,000 of which \$812,000 is for planting trees and other landscape enhancements. In addition, the City has allocated

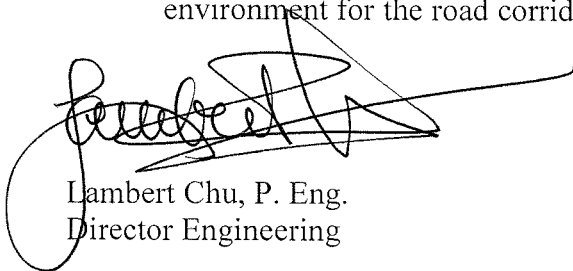
To: City Manager  
From: Director Engineering  
Re: Street Tree Planting  
2010 September 08..... Page 2

\$570,000 in the annual operating budget for maintenance of street trees. Over the last three years this has resulted in approximately 1,200 trees being added to the street tree inventory. Examples of areas where these improvements were implemented include Griffiths Ave from Southpoint Dr to Edmonds St, Loughheed Hwy from North Rd to Austin, Moscrop St from Boundary Rd to Patterson. Although under the City's annual capital plan there is no separate funding provision for tree planting, street tree planting is incorporated in the fundamental concept of all road and service improvement plans and funds are provided within these capital projects.

Although some may desire to plant more trees on unfinished streets (interim) that do not have curbs and sidewalks, the tree planting may conflict with future finished grades of the road, curbs and sidewalks as well as future driveways, utility connections and walkways. It is more desirable to focus the planting program on finished streets or as part of road improvement works. Council has made an ongoing commitment to street tree enhancements that are integral to the LASP program, continuing phases of the Street Beautification program, as well as the addition of trees through development related works. In addition, the Parks, Recreation & Cultural Services Department has a program to plant more trees in parklands and has received funding through the 'Trees for Tomorrow' program to support the additional planting.

### 3.0 SUMMARY

There are some 60,000 street trees in the City of which many have been planted through various capital and development related programs. These programs have also added 1,200 trees to the inventory over the last three years. Ms. Farrell has raised excellent points on the benefits of street trees and the City will continue to plant new trees where appropriate for the purposes of enhancing the urban environment and creating a greener environment for the road corridors.



Lambert Chu, P. Eng.  
Director Engineering

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Copied to: Director, Parks Recreation & Cultural Services