

Hacker, Marsha

From: John [colemanjj@ameritech.net]
Sent: Wednesday, February 03, 2016 1:16 PM
To: Hacker, Marsha; Phillips, Robert
Subject: Street-tree Committee proposal for BPW
Attachments: Proposal_to_Preserve_Trees_for_BPW_2016-02-03.pdf

Attached is a brief outline, for the Board of Public Works, of the MNA Street-tree Committee's proposal to preserve and enhance canopy trees as part of the Jenifer St. reconstruction. I will also bring 10-15 hard copy in case there is not time to get this into the Board's packet.

thank you,
john

--

Marquette Neighborhood Association's Street-tree Committee has developed a proposal to save the healthy trees of the 42 trees scheduled for removal during the Jenifer Street reconstruction.

That proposal consists of:

1. Retention of the healthy trees scheduled for removal because they are under high-power lines.
2. Undergrounding of the high-power lines in the project area at a significant cost savings over undergrounding all overhead wires. This eliminates the need for most tree removals under power-lines. An estimate from MG&E for this partial-undergrounding on Jenifer St. is \$197,300, which is approximately \$50/foot of property frontage facing the street with a high-power line.
 - (a) The Street-tree Committee is developing a proposal for the sharing of partial-undergrounding costs between MG&E, the City and property owners.
3. Treatment for Emerald Ash Borer of the healthy ash trees that would have been removed.
 - (a) The MNA board has agreed to consider covering the cost of the first three years of treatment of ash trees that would not be removed. This item will be placed on the agenda for the next MNA board meeting.
4. Planting of canopy type trees in the areas where trees are removed.
5. Narrowing the pavement on Jenifer Street by 1 foot on each side.
 - (a) Reduces tree root damage when the curbs are replaced.
 - (b) Provides increased soil area and volume to enhance tree health.
 - (c) Provides increased storm water absorption and snow storage area.
 - (d) Decreases street paving surface area and the cost relative to its area, including:
 1. Area to be salted in winter.
 2. Pavement to be maintained and patched.

We ask the Board of Public Works to:

- A) Support delay of the removal of healthy trees that are under high-power lines for 12 months to allow time for cost sharing for partial-undergrounding to be coordinated.
- B) Support Jenifer Street narrowing to allow for better tree survival during street reconstruction and to provide for better tree growth in the terraces. Narrowing will also result in the trees being farther back from the curb, reducing potential conflicts with vehicles.
- C) Support the concept of partial-undergrounding of power lines in the project area to allow for, and protect, canopy trees, provide more dependable service, and reduce line & tree maintenance costs.

Benefits of Canopy Trees

Canopy trees have been an integral part of the neighborhood's historic urban landscape. They:

- Conserve energy¹:
 - Canopy trees can reduce home cooling costs by 25%² to 30%³.
- Reduce noise⁴ and provide privacy⁵.
- Provide much needed cooling to houses and pedestrians alike⁶;
- Contribute to the overall well being and health of city residents⁷.
- Reduce stormwater runoff, especially peak flows^{8,9}.
- Provide carbon sequestering¹⁰;
- Purify air¹¹ and generate oxygen¹²;
- Add to our community's aesthetic character¹³.
- Increase property value^{14, 15}.
- Provide habit for wildlife¹⁶.
- Extend the life of the street surface by providing shading¹⁷.

¹ DOE, 1995. Landscaping for energy efficiency, page 2. Filling gaps in tree urban canopy can substantially reduce, urban heat island effects, cooling costs and energy use.

² Wisc. DNR, 2002. A guide to caring for trees, page 2.

³ USDA Forest Service. The value of trees, statistics sheet, page 1. Shade of 2 trees can reduce cooling costs by up to 30%.

⁴ New Jersey Forest Service, [undated]. Benefits of trees: Fact sheet.

⁵ Urban Assets, 2015. Jenifer Street Reconstruction Neighborhood Engagement Process, SUMMARY REPORT. pdf. page 54

⁶ U.S. Dept. of Energy, 2006. Energy savers, Tips to saving energy & money at home, page 15. Summer daytime temps. are 3-6 degrees F cooler in tree-shaded neighborhoods.

⁷ USDA Forest Service. The value of trees, statistics sheet, page 2. Multiple studies show reduced stress, reduced crime, and improved health when residents are exposed to trees and other green infrastructure.

⁸ USDA 2006. Midwest Community Tree Guide, page 11.

⁹ USDA Forest Service. The value of trees, statistics sheet, page 1. 1 healthy tree provides cooling of 10 window air conditioners.

¹⁰ USDA Forest Service. The value of trees, statistics sheet, page 2.

¹¹ USDA Forest Service. The value of trees, statistics sheet, page 2. Increase in 10% of canopy cover reduced peak ozone by 3%.

¹² USDA 2006. Midwest Community Tree Guide, page 10. One large tree can provide more than the oxygen needed by one person.

¹³ Virginia Cooperative Extension, 2009. Value, Benefits, and Costs of Urban Trees, page 2.

¹⁴ USDA Forest Service. The value of trees, statistics sheet, page 1. Property value is increases by approximately 3%. In a court ruling, a single oak was valued as contributing \$15,000 to a \$164,500 home's value.

¹⁵ Wisc. DNR, 2002. A guide to caring for trees, page 2. Trees increase property values from 5% to 20%.

¹⁶ The Conservation Fund, 1993. Greenways, page 1.

¹⁷ Wisc. Urban Forestry Council, 2007.