

# **BRIEFING PAPER**

City of Spokane Urban Forestry Citizen's Advisory Committee  
Street Tree Sub-Committee  
August 25, 2009

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## **Subject:**

Street Trees. Urban Forestry's Recommended Street Tree List Street, planting strip width and spacing requirements, and other policies related to street trees.

## **Background:**

Earlier this year, the Urban Forestry Citizen's Advisory Committee (UFCAC) was asked for a recommendation on the existing Recommended Street Tree List and planting strip width requirements. At that time, several CAC members voiced concerns with the status quo. After several conversations on the topic, including a meeting with the city's former urban forester, the consensus was that a multi-disciplinary task force including appropriate city staff should take a closer look at the issue to address perceived conflicts and build commonality for a solution.

In order to better articulate their concerns and provide suggestions for solutions, a subcommittee of the CAC met for over two hours on each of the following three days: June 16, June 19, and July 27, 2009.

## **Concerns:**

Please see the attached summary of meetings of the UFCAC Street Tree Sub-Committee. This document summarizes concerns with the City's Recommended Street Tree List and other policies related to street trees. In addition, it identifies objectives, impacts of maintaining the status quo, the group's recommendations, and potential challenges to implementing the recommendations. Issues addressed in the summary are:

- 1 – Recommended Street Tree List
- 2 – Historic Landscape Preservation and Existing Planting Strips Less than 5' Wide
- 3 – Discrepancies Between the City's Codes and Policies
- 4 – Downtown Street Trees
- 5 – Priority on Mature Trees

## **Requested Action:**

The CAC requests that the City Administrator direct the Parks Director, the Planning Director, and the City Engineer to meet as a group to review this briefing paper and provide leadership to resolve the stated concerns.

If further action is necessary, CAC representatives would be available to meet with the new Urban Forester and staff assigned by each of the above department directors to develop a strategy to implement the recommendations. For any items that cannot be resolved, the CAC would request written explanation.