

City of Minneapolis
Request for Committee Action

To: Transportation & Public Works
Date: 9/13/2016
Referral: N/A
From: Public Works Department
Prepared by: Michael D. Kennedy, Director, Transportation Maintenance & Repair (TM&R)
Presented by: Michael D. Kennedy, Director, TM&R
File type: Action
Subcategory: City Policies

Subject:

Update to Urban Forestry Policy

Description:

Adopting the updated 2016 Urban Forestry Policy.

Previous Actions:

[15-00917](#) - T&PW staff direction: Public Works staff directed to return to the Transportation and Public Works Committee no later than January 15, 2016, with a recommended policy to replace the 2004 Urban Forestry Policy, to be considered for adoption by the City Council and a report on best management practices for trees being incorporated into Construction Standards and Specifications. Staff further directed to seek the formal input of the Minneapolis Tree Advisory Commission, the Minneapolis Advisory Committee on People with Disabilities, and the Pedestrian Advisory Committee on the content of this policy.

[15-00137](#) - February 3, 2015 Transportation & Public Works Committee, Public Works and University of Minnesota Professor Gary Johnson presented the findings of a report summarizing tree failures and their relationship with sidewalk repair work. The report was received and filed, with the further staff direction "to continue to work with the Minneapolis Park & Recreation Board Forestry Division, the Minneapolis Tree Advisory Commission, and the Minneapolis Pedestrian Advisory Committee on recommendations for changes to City policy and practice that will limit the impacts to trees from City sidewalk repair work, and report back to the Transportation & Public Works Committee by July 31, 2015."

Ward/Address:

Not Applicable

Background/Analysis:

Based on the presentation in early 2015 by Minnesota Professor Gary Johnson regarding the findings of a report summarizing tree failures, the follow-up staff report and the staff direction in July, 2015, the updates to the Urban Forestry Plan are now ready for adoption.

Over the last year, Public Works staff have worked on the updates to the policy and met with the following groups to get their input on the changes:

- Public Works and MPRB/Forestry have collaborated to update the Policy, and move technical aspects to the Minneapolis Standard Specifications for Construction. The result is that the policy is now more of a guiding document, and does not need the same level of review and update as technical specifications change.

- MPRB Forestry created a new Division within the Minneapolis Standard Specifications for Construction that covers all aspects of as related to trees and current best management practices. The section, as part of the City construction specifications is reviewed and updated on an annual basis. Technical specifications are now in a single repository for developers, contractors, plan reviewers and construction and repair staff.
- Public Works has sought formal input with the following:
 - The Minneapolis Tree Advisory Commission (MTAC): The MTAC has reviewed drafts of the policy update, and provided suggested changes, most of which have been incorporated into the proposed document.
 - The Pedestrian Advisory Committee (PAC): The PAC had provided suggestions in 2015 which were incorporated into the draft document that the MTAC reviewed. Staff met with the PAC who reviewed the MTAC version and passed a resolution. The text of the formal resolution passed by the PAC is as follows: “The Minneapolis Pedestrian Advisory Committee feels that the changes to the Urban Forestry Policy better support practices that improve the city’s streets and sidewalks for pedestrians. The PAC recommends that city leadership approve the updated draft.”
 - The Minneapolis Advisory Committee on People with Disabilities (MACPD). Staff met with MAPCD at one of their regularly scheduled meetings to review the policy and proposed changes. While MACPD did not take any formal action, they expressed support for the proposals at the meeting.
- The MPRB Forestry Prevention Coordinator has been actively engaged with the Capital Project task Force regarding new projects, working regularly with the Sidewalk Inspections and their contractors to minimize the impacts from root cutting, and developing a database for cataloging work and results to further improve practices in the future.

Updates to the 2004 Urban Forestry Policy include:

1. Highlight
2. Highlight
3. Highlight
4. Highlight
5. Highlight

Attachments:

Draft 2016 Urban Forestry Policy.

Financial Review:

No financial impact.