

Tree Mitigation Account Project Request Form 2010



Project Title: 142nd Street and John Humphrey Drive Street Trees

Submitted By: Development Services Department

Project Details:

Project Location: 142nd Street and John Humphrey Drive

Number of Trees: 14

Tree Species: Preferred Village Parkway Tree

Project Description:

Purpose

The purpose of this project is to install parkway trees on either side of 142nd Street between John Humphrey Drive and Charleston Drive. This segment of 142nd Street does not have any parkway trees since none were ever installed between John Humphrey Drive and William Drive (two blocks east). The Tree Mitigation Account was established to, among other things, prioritize streets that “have either lost 50% of [their] parkway trees or never had parkway trees.”

Context

The intersection of 142nd Street and John Humphrey Drive represents the gateway or primary access point to the Orland Park downtown area from the neighborhoods to the east. It also acts as the primary access point for those same neighborhoods to go anywhere else in the Village. John Humphrey Drive is one of two signalized access points to 143rd Street for the area and it ultimately acts as a major north-south conduit to by-pass La Grange Road. As a result, the immediate neighborhood along 142nd Street has a higher traffic volume than would be expected for a residential setting.

Traffic Impacts

There are no stop signs along 142nd Street to slow traffic between John Humphrey Drive and Yorktown Drive (a quarter mile distance). The wide road and open parkways combined with the distance influence driving conditions on the street and contribute to the perception of a traffic problem. The quick pace and constant drive-by traffic through the gateway neighborhood ultimately impacts pedestrian safety and neighborhood desirability.

Parkway Trees

The addition of parkway trees on 142nd Street along the gateway stretch between John Humphrey Drive and Charleston Drive will address both traffic volume and driving conditions. The trees will introduce a street “tree wall” that will help:

- Buffer residences from the traffic volume;
- Buffer pedestrians from traffic, improving connections to the downtown area;

- Improve neighborhood desirability;
- Reduce speeds by calming traffic; and
- Protect private and public real and personal property.

The tree wall will also establish a visual queue for inbound and outbound traffic, underscoring the change of place between the downtown area and the neighborhoods to the east.

Estimated Cost: \$2,425.50 (\$2,310.00 x .05 contingency)

Implementation Strategy:

The 14 trees will be installed on the north and south sides of 142nd Street on the standard 50 foot street tree interval. Personnel from the Parks and Building Maintenance or Public Works Departments will coordinate the installation. The trees will likely be installed by the Village's regular tree and landscape contractor, Mid-America.

The target date for installation is May 2012.