



## Memorandum

To: **City Council Members**  
From: Patricia Speese, Public Works Director  
CC: Mayor David Weiss, CAO Jeri Chaikin  
Date: May 18, 2021  
Re: **Triennial Tree Assessment**

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The current triennial tree assessment for the maintenance of trees located in the City's right-of-ways expires at the end of 2021. This assessment funds the City's very important forestry program including planting, maintenance, and removal of trees in the City's right-of-ways. The current assessment of \$1.16 per front foot is levied against all properties in the City with the exception of property owned by the City, and schools. This assessment has not been increased in 20 years and as a result, we are losing ground with the maintenance and replacement of trees in our community. As a result of many factors previously outlined and after careful review and consideration, we are requesting a \$.50 increase in this assessment to the new rate of \$1.66 per front foot so that we can address the decline in trees and maintenance in the City.

The City of Shaker Heights is known for the beautiful tree-lined streets throughout our community which is an important part of its infrastructure. Due to the increasing number and intensity of storms causing significant tree damage and loss, the increased cost of maintenance, availability, diseases, deer damage, and a reduction in revenue, the Forestry Dept. is unable to keep up with the needs of City as it pertains to trees.

The forestry needs of the City are funded through the Tree Maintenance Assessment Fund. This assessment enables the City to protect and enhance the urban forest in Shaker Heights. The maintenance of our superior urban forest is critical to the property values and quality of life in Shaker Heights.

The proposed assessment covers all aspects of maintaining the street trees in the City including center strip trees. This new assessment rate will generate approximately \$325,000 in additional revenue resulting in roughly \$1,070,345 yearly. This increase will enable the City to plant approximately 150 more trees yearly, perform maintenance in accordance with best practices and increasing the staff by two additional employee. State law requires that the City contribute at least 2% to the program cost and do this by appropriating dollars in the general fund.

Chapter 145 of the Codified Ordinances of the City establishes the procedures for levying special assessments for City improvements. The procedure includes a Resolution of Necessity, public Notice and that the Public Works Director maintain the plans, specifications and cost estimates on file in her office and make the records available for public inspection. Once the Board of Review has met (if an appeal is filed), ruled on any appeals, and reported to Council, Council may proceed with passing an ordinance in August to actually levy the assessment.

The challenges of our Forestry Department remain constant. With the City initiatives to improve our housing stock and infrastructure, Shaker Height's urban forest will also need to continue to improve through its comprehensive maintenance programs.

A major component of this upcoming assessment will be the continued development of a program to establish monitoring/detection locations and inventory in the City of trees targeted by the Asian Longhorn Beetle. This beetle was discovered in Ohio in 2011 and has the potential to be more devastating than the Emerald Ash Borer (EAB). Trees of any age may be attacked, however, trees 4 inches in diameter and larger are preferred. Beetles will attack both stressed and healthy trees, which makes them an even greater threat. Unlike EAB, this beetle will attack 13 different species, Maple being the favorite choice. An equally concerning disease is the oak wilt which would have a devastating impact throughout the City.

To further our commitment to our Forestry Program, and with the help of the Tree Advisory Board, City Forester Charles Orlowski created the first Street Tree Master Plan for Shaker Heights.

Ohio remains the nation's leader in Tree City USA communities with 244 participating cities, villages, and townships. This marks Ohio's 35th year as the top Tree City USA state, according to the Ohio Department of Natural Resources' (ODNR) Division of Forestry. Shaker Heights proudly continues to be a leader in Northeast Ohio and at this year's Tree City USA ceremony we will receive our 36th consecutive award.

The City's Tree Advisory Board (TAB) plays a key role in helping to educate and inform residents about maintenance of trees in our City. The Committee oversees the annual Arbor Day celebration, Heritage Tree Award, annual poster contest with local elementary students and Tree enews to name just a few. At the Tree Advisory Board's May 11, 2021 meeting, they unanimously approved this recommendation. At the Sustainability's May 13, 2021, they also unanimously approved this recommendation. This request was unanimously approved by the Finance Committee at their May 17, 2021 meeting. Questions were asked as to how much money is spent on contractors and how much for in-house work. It is almost a 50-50 split as Public Works has identified which tasks are done better by in-house staff verses what services are more cost effective being performed by contractors.

If approved, this assessment is sufficient to meet the needs of the Forestry Department. It provides funding for what has now become routine wind storms, equipment needs and the reforestation of our City.

We are requesting approval to renew the triennial Tree Assessment at the current rate of \$1.66 per front foot which includes the Resolution of Necessity and the assessment in order to protect and enhance the City's urban forest. This assessment will allow the Forestry Department to continue to provide the City with a healthy, thriving forestry program. We request that this be passed as an emergency and under suspension of the rules so that the legal process can begin immediately to meet the September 8, 2021 deadline.

RESOLUTION NO.

BY:

Declaring it necessary to trim, plant and maintain trees on the streets herein named during the years 2022, 2023 and 2024, and providing for the assessment of a portion of the expense thereof, and declaring an emergency.

WHEREAS, in Resolution 18-53, adopted on May 29, 2018, this Council most recently adopted a Resolution of Necessity for the trimming, planting and maintenance of trees, for a three year period ending December 31, 2021; and

WHEREAS, in Ordinance 18-81, enacted on August 27, 2018, this Council most recently determined to proceed with the trimming, planting and maintenance of trees and levying assessments of a portion of the expense thereof on those streets of the City listed in said Ordinance, for the period 2019-2021; and

WHEREAS, this Council has determined that the current assessment of \$1.16 per front foot should be increased to \$1.66 per front foot, because the assessment has not been increased in 20 years, and as a result, the City is losing ground with the costs of maintenance and replacement of trees in the City.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the City of Shaker Heights, State of Ohio, three-fourths (3/4) of all members elected thereto concurring:

Section 1. It is hereby determined that it is necessary for the public health, safety, convenience and welfare to provide for the routine trimming, planting and maintenance of the trees on the following named streets within the corporate limits of the City during the years 2022, 2023 and 2024, said tree trimming, planting and maintenance having been recommended by the Director of Public Works of the City:

Aberdeen Road	Calverton Road	Drexmore Road
Albion Road	Canterbury Lane	Drummond Road
Aldersyde Drive	Carlton Road	Dryden Road
Almar Dr.	Chadbourne Road	Duffield Road
Andover Road	Chagrin Boulevard	East 127th Street
Ardmore Road	Chalfant Road	East 128th Street
Ashby Road	Chelton Road	East 130th Street
Ashford Road	Cheshire Road	East 140th Street
Ashley Road	Chesterton Road	East Belvoir Oval
Ashurst Road	Claremont Road	Eaton Road
Ashwood Road	Claridge Road	Edgerton Road
Attleboro Road	Claythorne Road	Elsmere Road
Avalon Road	Clayton Boulevard	Enderby Road
Becket Road	Colby Road	Endicott Road
Belvoir Boulevard	Colton Road	Fairhill Road
Berwyn Road	Colwyn Road	Fairmount Boulevard
Boyce Road	Courtland Boulevard	Fairmount Circle
Braemer Road	Courtland Oval	Falmouth Road
Brantley Road	Coventry Road	Farnsleigh Road
Brighton Road	Cranlyn Road	Fayette Road
Broxton Road	Daleford Road	Fernway Road
Bryden Road	Dorchester Road	Fontenay Road
Byron Road	Douglas Road	Glencairn Road

Glengary Road	Malvern Road	South Park Blvd.
Glenmore Road	Manchester Road	Southington Road
Green Road	Marchmont Road	Stanford Road
Grenway Road	Maynard Road	Stockholm Road
Gridley Road	Menlo Road	Stoer Road
Haddam Road	Milton Road	Strandhill Road
Hadleigh Road	Milverton Road	Strathavon Road
Halburton Road	Montgomery Road	Sudbury Road
Halworth Road	Morley Road	Sulgrave Oval
Hampstead Road	Newell Road	Sulgrave Road
Hardwick Road	Nicholas Road	Sussex Road
Hazelmere Road	No. Moreland Blvd.	Sutherland Road
Helen Road	No. Park Blvd.	Sutton Place
Hermitage Road	Normandy Road	Sutton Road
Hildana Road	Northfield Road	Sydenham Road
Holbrook Road	Northwood Avenue	Tolland Road
Holmwood Road	Norwood Road	Torrington Road
Huntington Road	Onaway Road	Townley Road
Ingleside Road	Oxford Road	Traver Road
Inverness Road	Palmerston Road	Traymore Road
Kemper Road	Park Driveway	Traynham Road
Kendall Road	Park Road	University Boulevard
Kenmore Road	Parkland Drive	Van Aken Boulevard
Kenyon Road	Parnell Road	Wadsworth Road
Keswick Road	Paxton Road	Warrensville Ctr. Road
Kingsley Road	Pennington Road	Warrington Road
Landon Road	Rawnsdale Road	Warwick Road
Lansmere Road	Riedham Road	Washington Boulevard
Larchmere Road	Rife Court	West Belvoir Oval
Latimore Road	Rochester Road	Westbury Road
Laurel Road	Rocklyn Road	Westchester Road
Laureldale Road	Rolliston Road	West Park Boulevard
Lee Road	Rye Road	West Sulgrave Oval
Leighton Road	Scottsdale Blvd.	Weybridge Oval
Lindholm Road	Sebor Road	Weymouth Road
Litchfield Road	Sedgewick Road	Wicklów Road
Lomond Boulevard	Shaker Boulevard	Wimbledon Road
Ludgate Road	Shaker Glen	Winchell Road
Ludlow Road	Shelburne Road	Winslow Road
Lyman Boulevard	Shelley Road	Winthrop Road
Lyman Circle	Sherbrooke Road	Woodbury Road
Lynnfield Road	Sherrington Road	Wrenford Road
Lynton Road	South Green Road	
Lytle Road	South Woodland Road	
McCaughey Road	Somerset Road	

Section 2. The plans, specifications and estimates of said improvement now on file in the office of the Director of Public Works be and the same are hereby approved.

Section 3. Two percent (2%) of the entire cost of said tree trimming, planting and maintenance, plus the cost of trimming, planting and maintenance in street intersections, shall be paid for by the City, the entire remainder of said cost and expense shall be assessed on all the lots and lands bounding and abutting the streets named hereinabove, which assessment shall be in proportion to the benefits which will result from said tree trimming and maintenance.

Section 4. Said assessments shall be paid in three (3) annual installments upon the 2022, 2023 and 2024 duplicates for collections in the years 2022, 2023 and 2024, shall be certified to the County Fiscal Officer and placed upon the tax duplicate, according to law, and shall be collected as other taxes, provided, however, that the property owner shall have the option of paying their assessments in cash within thirty (30) days from the passage of the ordinance levying such assessments.

Section 5. The Director of Finance shall, immediately upon the passage of this resolution, proceed to make an assessment report assessing the cost of such tree trimming, planting and maintenance upon the lands and lots abutting upon the above-mentioned streets based upon an assessment of \$1.66 per front foot, in accordance with the benefits thereto, indicating the amount of the assessment as to each such lot or land. Corner parcels shall be assessed based upon the parcel's short side frontage plus one-half of the parcel's corner radius. Upon the filing of such report with Council, the Director of Finance shall cause publication of notice of the filing of such report to be made once a week for two (2) consecutive weeks in a newspaper of general circulation in the City, as provided in Section 145.03 of the Administrative Code of the Codified Ordinances of the City. Any complaints against said assessments must be filed with the City's Board of Review of Assessments within two (2) weeks after completion of the publication of such notice.

Section 6. This resolution is declared to be an emergency measure necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health and safety for the reason that it is necessary to provide for the continuation of the tree program of the City and to certify the assessments therefore within the time required by law, and this resolution shall, therefore, take effect immediately upon its adoption and approval by the Mayor.

Adopted

Approved this \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_.

\_\_\_\_\_  
DAVID E. WEISS, Mayor

Attest:

\_\_\_\_\_  
JERI E. CHAIKIN  
Clerk of Council  
coun21/0519ResoNecessityTreeMaint2022-2024