

TO: Mayor Marchione and City Council

FROM: Rob Odle, Director, Planning and Community Development, 425-556-2417
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DATE: January 18, 2011

SUBJECT: STAFF REPORT: TREE FUND UPDATE

The purpose of this staff report is to give the Council an update on the City's Tree Replacement Fund.

The City established a Tree Replacement Fund shortly after the adoption of its Tree Protection Regulations (Ordinance No. 1998) in 1998. These regulations include a fee-in-lieu option for tree replacement. This option can be used after an applicant demonstrates it is not feasible to plant the replacement trees on the site. A tree replacement fee is required for each replacement tree required but not planted on the application site. These fees, as well as tree removal penalties, are paid into a separate City account. Funds withdrawn from this account are expended only for the planting of trees in City-owned parks, open spaces, and rights-of-way for supplemental purposes only. They may not be used as substitute funding for capital project requirements.

A Tree Fund Committee, made up of City staff, meets twice a year to determine candidate sites for tree plantings. The City began expending funds from this account in 2001. Trees have been planted throughout the city as a result of these funds. Locations include: Idylwood Park, Perrigo Park, Viewpoint Open Space, Bear Creek Trail, Evans Creek Trail, Bridal Crest Park, Juel Property, Cedar Village NGPE, Maplebrook Lane Open Space Tract, Arco NGPE, Barrett Property, Willows Grove NGPE, and various locations along the Sammamish River. The number of native trees purchased, planted and maintained is as follows:

- 2001: 22 trees
- 2002: no trees planted
- 2003: 683 trees
- 2004: no trees planted
- 2005: 919 trees
- 2006: 1085 trees
- 2007: 825 trees
- 2008: 1080 trees
- 2009: 1290 trees
- 2010: no trees planted

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This represents a total of 5,904 native trees planted over the past nine years. Since its inception, the City has spent approximately \$128,000 from this fund to install and maintain these trees. The native trees planted contribute to the City's commitment to an environmentally healthy community. Currently, \$8,597.55 remains in the account.

Staff will be available on January 18, 2011, to answer any questions the Council may have. In the interim, please contact Cathy Beam at cbeam@redmond.gov.