

City of Carson City
Agenda Report

Item #9-3

Date Submitted: June 8, 2010

Agenda Date Requested: June 17, 2010

Time Requested: Consent

To: Mayor and Supervisors

From: Parks and Recreation Department

Subject Title: Action to approve the publication of "LOVE YOUR TREE, PARDNER" a brief guide to choosing, planting, and caring for your shade trees brochure by the Carson City Shade Tree Council.

Staff Summary: The Carson City Shade Tree Council has put together a tri-fold full color informational brochure that is intended to inform the public about the proper selection, planting, and care of trees. The Shade Tree Council is requesting the Board's approval to expend approximately \$2,000 to print 20,000 copies.

Type of Action Requested: (check one)

☐ Resolution

☐ Ordinance

☒ Formal Action/Motion

☐ Other (Specify)

Does This Action Require A Business Impact Statement: ☐ Yes ☒ No

Recommended Board Action: I move to approve to approve the publication of "LOVE YOUR TREE, PARDNER" a brief guide to choosing, planting and caring for your shade trees brochure by the Carson City Shade Tree Council.

Explanation for Recommended Board Action: The purpose of the Carson City Shade Tree Council is to provide the Board of Supervisors with advice on matters concerning the development, maintenance, management, and promotion of a safe, healthy, and attractive urban forest in Carson City. To this end the Shade Tree Council conducts two annual events including an Arbor Day Ceremony and a Fall Tree Care Seminar. The Shade Tree Council has also developed an informational and educational tri-fold, full color brochure intended to educate our citizens in the proper way of selecting, planting, and caring for shade trees. The cost to publish 20,000 copies of the brochure is approximately \$2,000. Sufficient funds for this project exist in the Parks, Fuji, Gifts, YSA Budget 101-5017-452. The Shade Tree Council raises money every year through their Fall Tree Care Seminar. Currently there is \$9,260 in this account. Brochures will be placed in public city government offices including the Planning Department, Parks & Recreation facilities, and others. In addition, approximately 17,000 will be sent to residents in one of their upcoming billing notices.

Applicable Statute, Code, Policy, Rule or Regulation: CCMC 2.18.010

Fiscal Impact: Approximately \$2,000

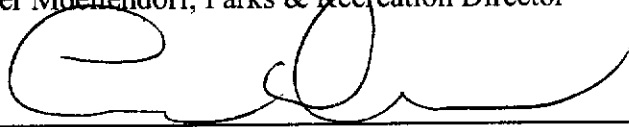
Explanation of Impact: Funding comes from funds earned by the Shade Tree Council from their annual Fall Tree Care Seminar.

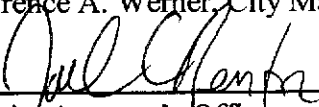
Funding Source: 101-5017-452-1267.

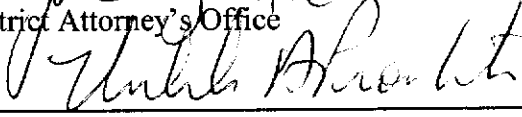
Alternatives: Deny the request, or approve with revisions.

Supporting Material: Exhibit A, "LOVE YOUR TREE, PARDNER..." Carson City Shade Tree Council Brochure.

Prepared By:  Date: 6/8/10
Roger Moellendorf, Parks & Recreation Director

Reviewed By:  Date: 6/8/10
Lawrence A. Werner, City Manager

 Date: 6/8/10
District Attorney's Office

 Date: 6/8/10
Finance Department

Board Action Taken:

Motion: _____ 1: _____ Aye/Nay
2: _____

(Vote Recorded By)

Top 10 Reasons We Need Trees

- 1 Trees absorb pollutants, thus purifying the air we breathe.
- 2 Trees increase property values and improve the tax base in communities.
- 3 Trees improve neighborhood appeal, attracting businesses, shoppers, visitors and new residents.
- 4 Trees cool our cities and towns by absorbing heat before it can warm up buildings and paved surfaces.
- 5 Deciduous trees save energy costs by blocking sunlight in summer and allowing it to warm buildings in winter.
- 6 Trees reduce the amount of pollutants in sewer systems, saving millions in water treatment costs.
- 7 Trees add a pleasant nature element to urban environment.
- 8 Trees provide a habitat for wildlife, attracting birds and small mammals into urban neighborhoods.
- 9 Trees reduce the amount of water-borne pollutants that reach streams and rivers.
- 10 Trees foster safer, more sociable neighborhoods.

Learn More

This brochure cannot be more than a brief list of things to be aware of when selecting, planting and caring for trees. To complement that,

the information below will help you find advice regarding your landscaping project.

Master Gardeners are volunteers trained in advanced plant science skills by University of Nevada Cooperative

Extension professionals. They make their knowledge available to Nevada residents through workshops, the media and personal consultation. An online request can be placed at <http://www.unce.unr.edu/programs/sites/mastergardener/askus/>

Information about landscaping on commercial property in Carson City can be found at <http://www.carson-city.nv.us/Index.aspx?page=1282> as downloadable PDF documents.

A list of trees and shrubs that are recommended for our area can be downloaded here: <http://www.carson-city.nv.us/Modules/ShowDocument.aspx?documentid=15225>. Trees preferred for Carson City's historic district are marked on this list.

Discuss your landscaping projects with local nursery professionals. They not only know which trees and shrubs will meet your expectations, they also know what will thrive in our climate and soil. Ask to see mature trees, so you will know their dimensions and appearance.

A brief guide to choosing, planting and caring for your shade trees.

LOVE YOUR TREE, PARDNER!!!

CARSON CITY
Shade Tree Council

Carson City Shade Tree Council
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775.887.2100

Brochure design by
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Selecting the right tree

Trees don't just stand around. They actually work for you. But not all trees do everything equally well, so you have to select your tree(s) based on the benefits you expect.

Deciduous or evergreen? Deciduous trees help with both cooling and heating bills by shading a building in summer and - after shedding their leaves - allowing the sun to warm it in winter. They lower the

temperatures on black, paved parking lots in summer and let the sun melt snow and ice in winter. Evergreens are planted as windbreaks and for privacy.

Dimensions and location. Inquire about a tree's dimension at maturity and determine if it will fit in the location you want it to grow in. Be aware of distances to walks, fences, sidewalks, traffic signs, utility lines and other potential obstacles in the path of the tree's growth. Some trees' roots are prone to getting into sewer lines, while others are more adapted to city conditions.

Soil and climate. The pH level of the soil is another factor that needs to be considered. Some trees prefer acidic, others more alkaline soil, while many do well in either. A home test kit for soil can help with a decision.

Drought resistant trees have lower watering requirements in our desert climate. The exposure to wind is another important factor on this side of the Sierra Nevada, and so is snow. Both regularly break large branches off weak trees, causing considerable damage.

Wildlife and fruit. Many trees attract various forms of wildlife, depending on the kind of fruit or shelter they offer. Unfortunately, those trees can be



rather messy, littering their surroundings with ripe fruit, nuts, cones and seed pods.

Pests and diseases. To avoid pests and diseases, the municipality of Carson City publishes a list of allowed shrubs and trees at <http://www.carson-city.nv.us/Modules/ShowDocument.aspx?documentid=15225>. Trees not listed there are subject to individual approval.

Decoration and property value. The most important aspect for most of us is the simple pleasure the view of a beautiful tree affords. This concerns the shape of the tree and how it complements the architecture of the building. For blooming trees the kind and color of the flowers is a factor, as well as the time they will bloom at - most in spring, but some later in summer. Each healthy, mature tree can increase the value of a property by up to \$1,500.

Planting a tree

BEFORE YOU DIG, CALL 811 TO MAKE SURE YOU WILL NOT DAMAGE BURIED UTILITY LINES AND INJURE YOURSELF!

The planting pit should be three times the diameter of the root ball and the same height. The planting hole should be backfilled with the soil that was removed. If the soil is very poorly drained or heavily urbanized, consult your nursery specialist about amendments.

If the roots are balled and burlaped, remove as much wire, string, burlap, and plastic as possible. Be careful not to fracture the root ball. Gently break up circling roots to encourage normal growth and prevent tree girdling.

Circling or girdling roots can prevent or inhibit establishment and may lead to premature tree death. Digging a square planting pit, rather than a circular one, will minimize the chances of root circling.

Lift the tree into the planting hole by the root ball, not the trunk. If the tree is in a container, gently remove the container, prior to lifting the tree into the planting hole.



Make sure the tree is straight and begin backfilling. Break up dirt balls and add water as you fill. Gently pack the soil, but do not compact it too much! The soil needs a good combination of air and dirt.

Stakes should be used if the tree seems unstable. Use wide, belt-like strapping attached to two sturdy stakes. Tie the tree loosely to make sure the bark won't get injured. The tree should be able to sway in the wind to establish a strong root system. Stakes and ties should be removed after one year.

Caring for Trees

Fertilizing. Without the natural process of recycling in a forest, trees often require fertilization. A mulch ring can recreate some of a tree's natural habitat, but if any of the following symptoms occurs,

- slow rate and amount of annual growth
 - smaller than normal foliage
 - off-color foliage
 - a large number of dead branches
 - tip-die on branches
 - increased disease and insect problems
- a tree specialist should be consulted to determine if fertilizer needs to be used.



Pruning. Even more than for creating attractive shapes or reducing hazards - power lines, right of way - pruning is a tool to keep your tree healthy. Watersprouts and suckers, weak and damaged branches, excessive internal growth, as well as circling and girdling roots need to be pruned. Pruning is surgery and poor pruning will deface and harm a tree, at least. Educate yourself about proper pruning techniques or hire a qualified arborist for the job.

Literature about tree care is available at the Carson City Library, 900 N. Roop Street (www.clan.lib.nv.us). Downloadable pruning information is available at

<http://www.carson-city.nv.us/Modules/ShowDocument.aspx?documentid=13377>