

# City of Alexandria, Virginia

## MEMORANDUM

DATE: MARCH 30, 2009

TO: THE HONORABLE MAYOR AND MEMBERS OF THE CITY COUNCIL

FROM: JAMES K. HARTMANN, CITY MANAGER

SUBJECT: BUDGET MEMO # 52: TREE MAINTENANCE FUNDING REDUCTION

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This memorandum is written in response to Councilman Krupicka's request for additional information on the tree maintenance program. It specifically provides information on the proposed funding reduction's impact to services, and the City's discount tree buying program.

The reduction in tree maintenance funding is experienced in reduced contracted tree maintenance services. This reduction requires citizen requests for service to be prioritized. Removal of dead and hazardous tree will be completed first. Street tree pruning along the City's major arterials and residential collectors will be continued on an established five year schedule. Discretionary work identified by the City Arborist staff will be put on hold. Tree work in parks and on school properties will continue to be limited to issues concerning public safety.

The figure below displays the effects of reduced tree maintenance funding.

<b>Contracted Work Completed</b>	<b>Work Projected Under Current Budget FY 2009</b>	<b>Work Projected Under Proposed Budget FY 2010</b>	<b>Change in Projected Work and Budget</b>
Estimated number of trees to be removed and cost	475 / \$341,548	350 / \$251,650	-125 / -\$89,898
Estimated number of trees to be pruned and cost.	650 / \$145,084	295 / \$65,882	-355 / -\$79,202
Other services costs	\$ 8,800	\$0.00	(\$ 8,800)
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1,125 / \$495,532</b>	<b>645 / \$317,532</b>	<b>-480 / -\$177,900</b>

Relating to a City tree discount program, the City currently offers a tree sale program where residents can purchase trees to be planted on private property. The goal of this program is to promote the preservation of Alexandria's tree canopy by encouraging the planting of trees on private property throughout the City. The program is offered for the residents of Alexandria twice a year: once in the spring, associated with earth day, and in the fall. In 2008 a total of 370 trees, valuing \$18,500, were planted by Alexandria residents.