

PUBLIC ASSETS TREE CONCERNS

To effectively create a solution to our current tree situation it is important that we first obtain an inventory of our City trees.

Once we obtain a tree inventory we can begin to assess the trees by knowledge of the species, condition, stability and hazard of the trees. If a tree is deemed to be hazardous we can plan the next step, that being the removal. A rating system may also be used to rate the hazardous condition of a tree in order to create a maintenance plan for the trees.

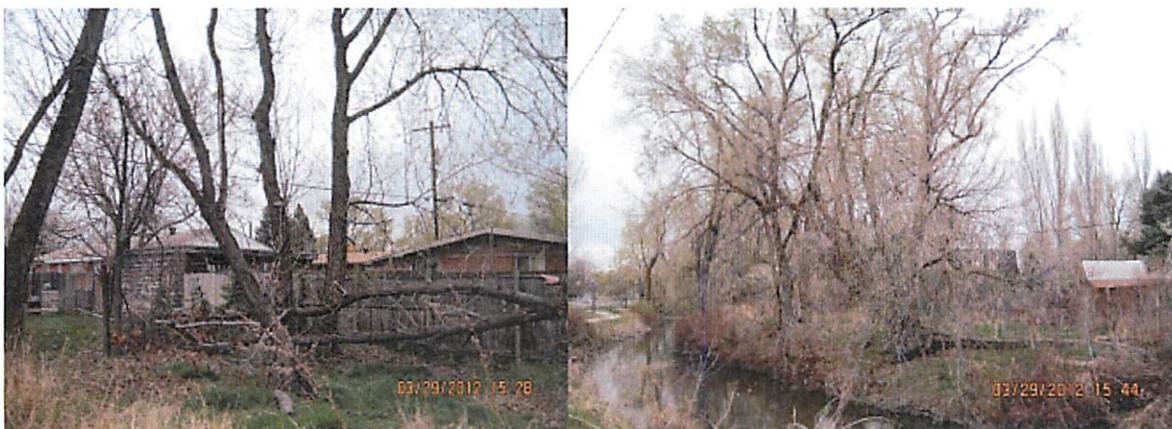
If a tree has to be removed it is important that we have a plan to replace the tree as well. Many factors should be taken into consideration when replacing the tree. For example, species of tree, overhead clearance, location, water source, and surrounding structures.

Critical area of concern is the trees in Fitts Park.

A lot of the trees in the Park are mature trees and they exist due to seeds being blown into the park, and have sprouted. This is pretty common and is throughout the City. Many of these invasive trees border the surrounding creek banks which makes them less stable, and more susceptible to falling. With the constant flow of people who visit our Parks the danger of a tree falling or losing a branch and hitting someone is high.

Potential solution.

To avoid or decrease the possibility of such incidents it is imperative to have a strong tree maintenance plan as well as a budget that will support it. Having the funds to maintain the existing trees and to replace them as they begin to decay allows us to be selective of the new species of trees we add to our park.



Urban Livability

Proposed Tree Ordinance Administration

With the additional work load placed on Code Enforcement, the following items will be needed to properly manage the new requirements set forth by the proposed ordinance changes.

Staffing: Urban Livability is currently budgeted for a part time Graffiti Removal/Community Connection Outreach employee. We have attempted to fill this opening two times, with very little interest. It is proposed to move the part time position to a full time employee status. The administration of the new tree ordinance will be very involved, and if we do not allow for the additional assistance with this requested employee, other action items that the 2 current Code Enforcement Officers are charged with may be affected (this may have a visible impact in the community).

ULD is budgeted for a part time person = \$16,000.00.

Request: \$32,000.00 to bring the part time position to a full time status. This will cover cost of salary and benefits.

ULD is already equipped with the vehicle; office space and material to have the new employee start as soon as approved and hired.

It is proposed to have three departments involved with the management of trees in the city. Urban Livability will address private property trees. The following information is estimates of budget needs, and will be re-evaluated each budget season with a review given to the City Council.

Abatement Funds Account: Requested increase = \$15,000.00

This current year in the Community Connection CDBG funds, we have some rollover from the previous year. It is proposed to create a sub-account to the CDBG Community Connection account and place (roll over money) \$10,000.00 in this account for a grant program. Residents who need assistance with tree removal could apply and qualify for funding help. This is another area that would need to be administered by the proposed full time employee.

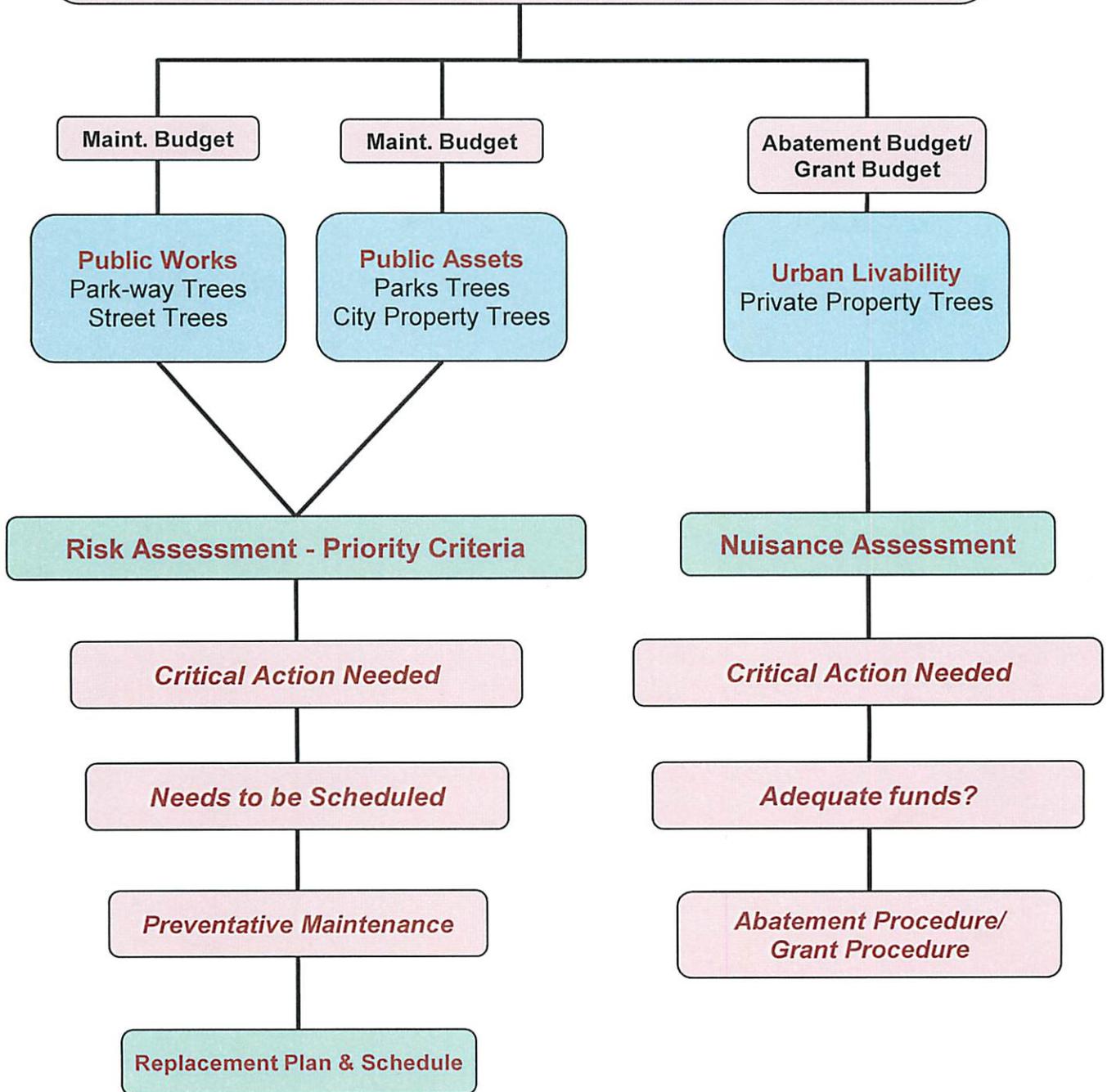
Proposed budget increase:

Employee = \$32,000.00

Abatement account = \$15,000.00

Proposed Tree Ordinance Administration

*Administrative Responsibilities & SOP's
Inventory / Assessment / Take Action
Develop Preventative Solutions*



Budget Implications & Request

Tree Ordinance Administration

Existing funds	\$20,000 in capital fund for "Tree Trimming"
-----------------------	--

Additional funds necessary to stand up program in FY 2014-15	\$67,000
Public Works Department <i>Street Trees</i>	Transfer \$10,000 from capital fund into PW Operating Account
Public Assets Proposal <i>Parks Trees</i>	Transfer remaining \$10,000 from capital fund into PA Operating Account Allocate an additional \$10,000 to use through remainder of fiscal year – Report back in spring
Urban Livability Proposal <i>Privately-Owned Trees</i>	(1) Allocate \$10,000 of rollover CDBG funds to grant program (2) Set aside additional \$15,000 for abatement during remainder of fiscal year – Report back in Spring (3) Authorize additional annual budget increase of \$32,000 to convert PT official to a FT enforcement officer, with split responsibility of trees and other matters