

## Main Street Monroe/DDA

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**Sent:** Thursday, November 13, 2008 10:16 AM  
**To:** Mainstreet, Mainstreet  
**Cc:** Davidson, Scott; Brown, George  
**Subject:** Tree Replacement Project - Downtown

Andrea,

As per our discussion with Scott, Rick, and the Forestry crew this morning, we are prepared to commence the requested downtown tree replacement project still this Fall. The recommended trees are an alternating combination of the European Hornbeam (roughly 25' max.

spread on 35' max. height), and the Bowhall Maple (max. 15' spread on 40' max. height). Neither tree flowers, but the Hornbeam is yellow in Fall and the Bowhall is red. It is felt that in order to meet most of the DDA's stated goals to minimize (but not eliminate) the likelihood of intense bird infestation and to minimize maintenance associated with flowering trees with berries, we would go with 2 types of trees that do not flower but give off alternating colors in the Fall, thus replacing the Spring beauty of flowers and their associated downsides with a more brilliant Fall color pattern.

Both trees have very favorable branching and root characteristics suitable to downtown installations. Examples of the hornbeams are surrounding the outside of the City Council chambers (though cut off by their proximity to the wall). The Hackberry tree suggested by the Design Committee actually grows taller than the Bradford pears, which was not felt to be desirable, and the Lindens are notorious for shallow roots which will easily damage surface infrastructure (examples of these are on Washington adjacent to the courthouse).

Also, as we discussed, we will be replacing the cast iron tree grates, at least on a trial basis, with a simple mulch pit, leaving the grate frame in to delineated the sidewalk area.

If you would, please present this to the DDA board for discussion on November 19. Though technically DDA board action is not necessary, I would like them to be aware of our schedule, as they will receive quite a bit of feedback when we begin cutting existing trees. The proposed plan would be to remove all 11 trees (6 on the north side, 3 on the southeast corner, and 2 on the southwest corner) at the intersection of Front and Washington, and re-plant 5 or 6 of the Hornbeams this Fall.

The Bowhall Maples are recommended for a Spring planting only, so we will plant those as soon as possible in Spring 2009. Fall work can occur until frost penetrates the area. The removals would all occur this Fall to avoid having disruption twice.

Lastly, as we discussed, the DDA has already pledged \$750 toward tree replacement, and at this point, in order to replace all at once, the City forestry budget will accommodate the remaining work. I would expect a similar type of cost-sharing in the future as we continue this type of project.

Let me know if you have any questions, I am planning to be in attendance as usual next week.

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