ATTACHMENT A

PROJECT DESCRIPTION
CITY OF BROOKSVILLE STREETSCAPING MASTER PLAN

Brooksville proposes to create a "Streetscaping Master Plan" to enhance the City's ability to develop and maintain a comprehensive tree management strategy which will provide the basis for accelerating our Community Forestry Program. To insure the plan is both complete and practical, the professional services of an Urban Forester are required. Unfortunately the City, with a median household income under $20,000 and a Low Median Income (LMI) population exceeding 51%, cannot afford to fund the entire project, and therefore is seeking grant assistance.

The City's goal is the implementation of a multi year program (approximately five years, depending on funding) which will coordinate the efforts of City staff, along with volunteers and civic organizations, in the preservation of the City's existing trees and vegetation, and the development of a systematic schedule for the planting of additional trees and vegetation along City streets. Besides the obvious environmental and aesthetic advantages, this Plan will enhance our efforts to insure the natural character of the City is preserved for future generations.

The major components to be addressed in the Master Plan are as follows:

1. Development of a comprehensive Tree Inventory Program.

2. Identification of existing trees with potentially less then a five-year life span due to disease and other causes, and selection of the appropriate natural varieties for replacement.

3. Selection of areas in need of additional trees and supplemental under-planting, as well as implementation of improved maintenance plans.

4. Expansion of the existing "Tree Protection Zone" by the inclusion of additional streets.

5. Initiation of programs and projects that will bring greater community awareness and involvement, as well as support for preservation efforts.

A comprehensive Master Plan will give the City a firm starting point and insure the maximum benefit from our limited resources by minimizing omissions and duplications. Documenting the condition and location of the City's existing trees and vegetation, and updating the data base as new planting occurs will allow the City to monitor program progress and measure the success of the specific planting, replacement, and preservation objectives.

In 1993 the City Council accepted the recommendation of a citizen advisory committee and designated fifteen streets (See Page 9) within the City as "Protected Zones." By controlling encroachments, restricting activities on land abutting these roadways, and a stringent removal/replacement permit process, the City has effectively preserved a large number of specimen trees and required the planting of replacement trees to maintain the City's tree canopy. The City would now like to expand the number of designated streets.

A long-term project to replace the aged underground water and sewer infrastructure will begin this year. Most of this work will be in the oldest parts of the City, which unfortunately, is also where many of the City's largest trees are found. A careful study of the construction areas before and after the infrastructure improvement projects will help the City in its preservation efforts and facilitate the development of a tree replanting schedule. Furthermore, as the construction will displace the wildlife in the area, the proper planning now will enable the City to replant the proper vegetation to lure the wildlife back when the project is completed.

Phase One of the Plan involves a comprehensive inventory of trees with a Breast Height Diameter of six (6) inches or more located along all streets in the City. The general condition of the trees will also be coded utilizing standard criteria provided by the Urban Forester. An important part of the proposed Plan includes a computer software program ("TreeKeeper Jr." from the National Arbor Day Foundation or similar program; See Page 15) which will enable the City to develop a data base that can be overlaid on a series of City Section Maps. The inventory and maps will be used to determine planting sites for trees and vegetation throughout the City, with streets in the utility line construction areas assigned high priority. As a result, disturbing newly planted trees can be minimized and future problems can be avoided by making sure the "Right" tree is planted in the "Right Place" at the "Right Time" to reduce interference with utility lines (above and below the ground), street light clearances, traffic light clearances, future construction, etc.

When conflicts are identified, and sites for additional planting have been selected, the plan will need to be executed. The Urban Forester will educate City employees in proper urban forestry principles and practices including inspection and preservation techniques and corrective measures for diseased and damaged trees. By utilizing the Forester's community involvement expertise and programming guidance, the City will also implement community education programs. The programs will feature the importance of maintaining/expanding the Tree Canopy, its effect on the City's air quality and temperature, and the benefits to the citizens of Brooksville, now and for years to come. The direct involvement of residents of the community will insure the success of the project.

The City will work closely with the local High School and Community

College Agricultural Programs, and based on preliminary discussions, will set up internships and recruit volunteers to help with data gathering for the inventory portion and subsequently tree planting.

Though aided when possible by volunteers, the City of Brooksville Community Development and Park & Recreation Departments will be the primary Agencies overseeing the project, while Public Works will be responsible for the site preparation, planting equipment, and future maintenance.

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