

## Memo

To: FILE

Date: 12/16/2024

Re: North Commons Park Improvements Tree Replacement Strategy

Reference:

1. [North Service Area Master Plan – North Commons Park Plan – Guiding Principles](#)
2. [2023-2026 Strategic Directions and Performance Goals – SD E, Performance Goal 2](#)

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Guiding Principle #7 in the North Commons Park Plan within the North Service Area Master Plan states, “Replace any trees removed as a result of construction with an equivalent or greater caliper inch total of trees, in coordination with MPRB’s Forestry Department.” The current design for the North Commons Park Improvements project anticipates the removal of 37 total trees with a caliper total of 444”. Taking the Guiding Principle at face value would require 178 - 2.5” new tree plantings.

However, the project area and overall park do not have sufficient canopy space that allows for that number of tree plantings.

In coordination with MPRB Forestry and the design team, staff are recommending the following approach to tree replacement within this project:

1. At a minimum, trees will be replaced at a 2 to 1 ratio based on guidance from the 2023-2026 Strategic Direction E and Performance Goal 2, which states, “**Tree Canopy** – By 2026, plant two trees for every tree removed on MPRB property and boulevards,” AND
2. Trees will be planted to replace the total caliper inches removed from the park using a 5-year growth model (5-years after tree planting, all 444” of caliper inches lost will be replaced).

Using the above methodology, staff are proposing 88 tree plantings with the North Commons Park Improvements project as it exceeds the 2 for 1 replacement ratio (74 tree plantings required). Additionally, this number of tree plantings will lead to a 548 caliper inches after five growing seasons.

This approach meets the intent of Guiding Principle #7 by replacing trees at a more aggressive rate than 1 for 1 and quickly replacing canopy lost due to the project.

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