

Findings:

The cottonwood tree presents an imminent public safety threat in a very high-use area and it needs to be addressed

Due to the need for interdepartmental coordination, staff will handle this project

Cottonwood is shorter-lived and more prone to failure than other species, such as oaks. Forestry expects the tree to continue to decline regardless of additional tree care

One maintenance event costs the city (taxpayers) \$1,400-1,700+ (see next page), may cause compaction on hillside, and the use of gasoline-powered tools (chainsaws) in the area poses a risk to salamander habitat.

Watershed Protection Department's Salamander Conservation Program requirements for work in this area:

- 1) A temporary mulch road if vehicles access the tree
- 2) Gasoline containment booms placed around the work area
- 3) Possible permitting or variance to SOS amendment

In addition, Austin Energy would need to de-energize power line near tree to make it safe to work on

BSP Joint Subcommittee (Parks Board and Environmental Board) has been briefed

Options:

In-house removal

Contracted dead wood pruning with in-house oversight

(both options would necessitate manual removal of brush because vehicle access is limited by the site and by concerns from WPD Salamander Program regarding soil erosion)

Staff Proposal:

The safety risks presented by the cottonwood tree need to be addressed immediately.

Because tree maintenance on this cottonwood creates a risk to environmental features, because coordination of work on this tree is resource-intensive, and because this tree is expected to need recurring maintenance in the very near future if left in place, staff recommends that the tree be removed in the near future.

Additionally, staff recommends that additional tree plantings be considered as part of the Barton Springs Grounds Improvement Project to compensate for the loss of this tree.

Summary of Options and Staff Proposal for Maintenance on Cottonwood Tree at Barton Springs Pool



Estimated Cost of One Tree Maintenance Operation for Cottonwood Tree at Barton Springs Pool

Equipment/Crew	Estimated Time	Rate	Amount 1 (In-house)	Amount 2 (Contracted)
<i>In-house Option</i>				
Forestry Cargo Brush Truck + hauling	12	\$25.00	\$300.00	
Forestry Labor, tree maint. (2 @5 hours ea)	10	\$21.75	\$217.50	
Forestry Labor, manual brush rmvl (2 @3 hours ea)	6	\$21.75	\$130.50	
<i>Contracted Option*</i>				
Arborist(s) - Climber	1	\$700.00		\$700.00
Forestry Cargo Brush Truck + hauling	6	\$25.00		\$150.00
Forestry Labor, manual brush rmvl (2 @3 hours ea)	6	\$21.75		\$130.50
AE Equipment/Crew and Coordination	3	\$100.00	\$300.00	\$300.00
Coordination, containment booms	3	\$32.00	\$96.00	\$96.00
Coordination, permitting (2 @~\$40/hr)	2	\$80.00	\$160.00	\$160.00
Coordination, general project	7	\$32.00	\$224.00	\$224.00
Coodination & oversight, contractor	3.5	\$32.00		\$112.00
Total Cost			\$1,428.00	\$1,872.50
Staff Hours Committed			43	46.5