

“These trees would need to be removed anyway when Mr. Andersen widens the road and dedicates the rest of the Jefferson right-of-way to the Village. Public Works has reviewed the preliminary plans. They wanted a normal width street on Jefferson and have Brookbank connect through to Blanchard. This can't be done without removing the trees on Jefferson. “

--Excerpt from email from rginex@downers.us to jschofie@gsb.uchicago.edu, 4/15/2005

Since this email, I have been seeking to understand:

- The events that led up to the removal of ten large trees from private property along the north side of the 1100 block of Jefferson Avenue
 - The Village's role in these events
 - What Public Works “wanted”
 - Whether neighborhood and environmental concerns were considered?
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Three FOIA's have been helpful but not definitive:

- Incomplete with one outright denial
- Can find no reference to discussion of Jefferson Avenue widening, only Brookbank Avenue extension.
- Can find no reference to the impact on, or input from, the neighborhood
- Only one reference to saving trees in the 3/17/2005 Stormwater Review Comments:

“...the existing mature tree line along the southern property line could be incorporated to enhance the site's landscaping, but this would require grading revision in the vicinity of the detention basin.”

Not clear whether this refers to all the trees on the southern property line or only the ones between Carpenter Street and Jefferson Avenue

- Documents from the Village Forester only appear concerned with replacing trees, having taking destruction of the original for granted
- Specification for replacement trees along Jefferson Avenue appears minimal:

“Trees must have straight stems with at least 2-inch diameter at 6 inches above ground.”