

CITY OF ALBANY  
PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION  
STAFF REPORT

Agenda date: June 12, 2014

**TO:** Park and Recreation Commission

**FROM:** Tony Wolcott, Urban Forester

**SUBJECT:** 703 Cornell - Urban Forester report on one existing *Liquidambar styraciflua* (American sweet gum) tree located in front of the property in the public right-of-way

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**STAFF RECOMMENDATION**

The application for removal of this tree should be approved. Although this is not a mature Liquidambar, it is already too large for the space it is in. The planting strip is only 27" wide and there are numerous wires above that prevent any top growth. There has been extensive pruning to limit the height and spread of this tree. There is also significant lift on the sidewalk and potential damage to the infrastructure. Future difficulties will only get worse. This is the wrong tree in the wrong place.

**BACKGROUND**

The home owner has requested removal due to the difficulties with maintaining this tree in this location. It is the owner's intent to plant two trees approved for this existing location. Liquidambar in general have a poor history in Albany, and should be viewed as trees with extensive surface rooting and poor branch attachments.