

Forester's Report 2012-3-1

Three burning permits were issued since the last Forester's Report. Much of Minnesota is currently under an open burning ban due to dryness and lack of snow cover. The open burning ban was started about 6 weeks earlier than usual.

The aerial deer count for Sunfish Lake by Three Rivers Park District was conducted on March 2, 2012 and 60 deer were counted within the city limits.

Met with Mayor Williams, various residents, Xcel Energy staff and Wright Tree staff regarding power line pruning and removals along the major power line through the City. It appears that in most cases Xcel and residents have come to mutual understandings.

Wrote articles for the Sunfish Lake Quarterly. Coordinated plans for the Arbor Day Green Fair with the Mayor's Environmental Action Committee (MEAC) and prepared the Arbor Day flyer and list of trees that may be pre-ordered.

Completed cleanup of broken branches along various city streets due to February snowstorm. Cleanup was delayed until piled snow along streets had melted.

Attended training session sponsored by the Minnesota Department of Agriculture and the Department of Natural Resources regarding the latest information on EAB and other invasive species.

Jim Naves
City Forester

Living Sculpture Tree and Shrub Care, Inc.

**Forestry Work Plan 2012
Sunfish Lake, Minnesota 55077**

Continue tree street clearance along all City streets.

1. Prune trees to a minimum height of 12' at street edges.
2. Remove woody plant material to at least 5' from pavement edges and treat cut stumps with brush killer to prevent stump regrowth.

Consult with residents regarding their tree, reforestation, burning permit, and wild animal questions.

Provide forestry related educational opportunities for residents.

Coordinate Arbor Day Celebration and Arbor Day tree sales.

Coordinate hazard tree assessments and abatements.

1. Remove hazard trees on City property.
2. Work with residents to inform and encourage high-risk tree removals.

Develop a complete survey significant native trees (6" diameter and larger) growing on City property.

Observe and record tree disease, insect infestations, building and landscaping projects, invasive weed infestations, and other environmental conditions as they may relate to forestry.

1. Survey City for oak wilt disease and Dutch elm disease and work with City Council and residents, as necessary, to deal with these issues.
2. Continually observe City trees for presence of insect infestations with special emphasis on emerald ash borer, gypsy moth and two line chestnut borer.

Coordinate long-term reforestation related to:

1. The expected loss of ash trees due to emerald ash borer.
2. Continuing losses of elms to Dutch elm disease.
3. Aggressive management of non-native tree species such as buckthorn.

Continue planned removal of ash trees (2" and larger diameter) from City properties and ROW's as outlined in the Resolution regarding the Sunfish Lake approach to emerald ash borer.

Coordinate a program of woody invasive plant control. Primary emphasis for 2012 is prevention of seed production by mature buckthorn and honeysuckle species.

Coordinate any forestry related storm damage clean up.

Complete other activities as directed by the Mayor and City Council.