

Forester's Report 2012-4-30

One burning permit was issued for a future brush-burning project since the last Forester's Report. As of today's date (4-30-2012) Dakota County is not restricted for open burning and permits will again be issued.

The Sunfish Lake Tree Board met on April 12 at Dick and Debbie Bancroft's home. Topics discussed ranged from the current status of emerald ash borer in Minnesota, success of tree planting projects in the City from 2011, Arbor Day 2012, buckthorn and other invasive species management, deer population management, vegetation damage by other wild animals, and recent sick raccoons. Of particular interest was a desire by several committee members to create informational or educational materials with respect to managing our private acreages in the City. This topic is especially important for new residents who may not have ever had woodlands and meadows to take care of where they have lived previously. We discussed using either neighborhood committees or the Forester to deliver this information. Those in attendance were: Dick and Debbie Bancroft, Dan Pennie, Tom Schlehuber, Pam Bennett, Molly Park, Katie Larson, Jeannine Naves, and Jim Naves.

Arbor Day flyers were distributed on April 16 for the Arbor Day Green Fair is on May 5 starting at 9 am at Harmon Park. Trees for purchase at Arbor Day are expected to arrive by mid-week.

I have had discussions with a number of residents regarding appropriate species to use to help fill the void left once buckthorn and honeysuckle have been removed.

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.