

## Forester's Report 4 30 2015

No burning permits were issued during April. No additional burning permits will be issued until spring green up occurs and reduces the risk of wildfire from last years' dry leaves, grass and weeds.

Visited with the renters and realtor associated with 2058 Charlton Road about a large number of lawn debris bags along the street. The bags were gone a few days later.

The Arbor Day Newsletter was mailed out on April 14<sup>th</sup> and the Arbor Day Green Festival will be held on the morning of Saturday, May 2<sup>nd</sup>.

The Parks and Public Lands committee met on April 8<sup>th</sup> to confirm their recommendations and Dan O'Leary will present them at the next City Council meeting.

A "City of Excellence" award application has been submitted to the League of Minnesota Cities on behalf of the Firewise Committee for their work on the Firewise Project.

The Firewise Fire Truck Drive Through event is coming up on Saturday, May 16<sup>th</sup>, so if any Council members want to participate and maybe ride a fire truck let me know.

Jim Naves  
City Forester

## **Parks and Public Lands 5-Year Plan Committee -- Recommendations**

The Parks and Public Lands Committee respectfully make the following comments and recommendations.

We believe Sunfish Lake should remain a hidden gem and think advertising that puts us into the spotlight would be a negative for the Community. Enhancing our parks to make them destinations for adventure seekers is not desirable. Public land enhancements requiring more upkeep and policing is not recommended.

The overall public lands management theme should further the desire of residents, young and old, for a Community landscape which respects our privacy, our need to be safe, and the need for good communication. We believe this fosters a true sense of ownership and sharing within the Community.

We believe that the City's Parks and Public Lands should be managed and maintained in a similar fashion to what has been historically been done. The Forestry Work Plan should be followed with modifications and additions specified by the Committee.

### **Recommendations:**

Develop a native flower planting demonstration along Salem Church Road to showcase how good native flowers can look and installation methods needed to be successful.

Musser Park:

Install small signs (approx. 16" X 24") at each end of the walking trail (within the woodland) identifying both the park and park rules. Please see example. A large sign to identify the park is not recommended.

Harmon Park:

1. Remove the large damaged Harmon Park sign and do not replace.
2. Install a large boulder with an engraved plaque to commemorate the gift of the park from the Harmon family. A large sign to identify the park is not recommended.
3. Install "No Parking Dusk to Dawn" street signs along the section of Angell Road adjacent to Harmon Park.
4. Install one small sign (approx. 16" X 24") along the access trail, within the woodland and out of sight from Angell Road, identifying both the park and park rules.

Continue to plant new trees on City public lands. The north mowed meadow in Musser Park; the SE area between Salem Church Road and Highway 494; along with forested areas opened up by storms, tree diseases, invasive species management, and insect infestations are recommended for new trees.

No changes or enhancements are recommended for the MN DOT area at the NE corner of Sunfish Lake adjacent to Highway 110.

Larger sized trees (i.e. #10 potted or similar) are recommended and they should be selected to encourage the maximum tree diversity possible for each site. The committee is comfortable using native species and **non-invasive**, non-native species if this allows greater tree diversity.

***Living Sculpture Tree and Shrub Care, Inc.***

Use maximum species diversity possible for new tree plantings.

Planting native fruit and nut trees in the parks for wildlife is a good idea.

Continue to participate in the Tree City USA Program.

Reintroducing native plants onto public lands is recommended.

A public land tree inventory should be completed over the next 3-5 years.

# Musser Park

**A gift to the citizens of Sunfish Lake for their use and enjoyment by Betty Musser**

**Park Rules: (Any variance from rules must be approved by the City)**

No alcoholic beverages.

Park only in public easements or right-of-way.

Park is only open from dawn to dusk.

Dogs must be under voice command or leash restraint at all times.

Park visitors must clean up after their pets.

Bicycle riding only on designated bicycle trails or streets.

No motorized vehicles.

No hunting.

**Park visitors shall not:**

Remove or damage trees, plants, flowers, soil, or rocks.

Mark or deface benches, signs, or any other structures.

Dispose of trash, refuse, leave geocaches, or abandon/store personal property in parks.

Post signs or advertisements on City property.

Advertise or offer any article, service, or items for sale in parks.

Construct any tent, building, or structure.

Start a fire.