

Forester's Report 1 4 2016

Three burning permits were issued during December.

Attended emerald ash borer update and progress update sponsored by the Minnesota Department of Agriculture on December 9, 2015.

Delivered replacement fire number signs.

A resident asked if an article regarding "landscape care" for septic system drain fields could be written for a future SFL Quarterly. She was concerned that younger residents may not know that large trees and their large roots are not good for septic system longevity.

Investigated a reported "clear cutting" question and discovered that a site heavily infested with buckthorn and honeysuckle brush had been cleared of the invasive brush and trees, a number of dead trees had been removed, and quality old trees had received appropriate professional pruning. An adjacent neighbor commented that she wished they had continued removing buckthorn and dead trees even closer to her property.

Consulted with various residents regarding burning permits, wild animal concerns, invasive species, and tree removal issues.

The builder at 240 Salem Church Road has planted 15 trees (of recommended species), planted grass seed, and installed erosion protection blankets in the area where fill was placed in the ravine.

Jim Naves
City Forester

EAB Update Meeting
Hosted by Minnesota Department of Agriculture
MNDOT Training Center, Shoreview, Minnesota
12/9/2015

There are now 25 states that have emerald ash borer infestations.

There are 11 Minnesota Counties with EAB infestations – seven of these counties are new infestations found during 2015.

The closest documented EAB infestation to Sunfish Lake is in Mendota Heights and is less than 3 miles away.

If EAB is not in Sunfish Lake at detectable levels now it likely will be in the relatively near future. The City Forester surveys for the presence of EAB each winter, when new infestations are most easily detectable. EAB typically does not reach detectable levels in an individual tree until the third year so an infestation may be well along before it can be detected.

The City has no legacy or historically important ash trees on public lands and so does not plan to treat any ash trees on public property with preventative insecticides. If you have an ash tree or ash trees that are valuable to you for sentimental reasons or to your landscape you should start treating that tree with a preventative treatment of systemic insecticide. Contact a Certified Arborist/Certified Pesticide Applicator to begin treatment with Tree-age insecticide in the spring of 2016.

The City does not require you to treat your ash tree/trees with insecticide though untreated ash trees will eventually become infested and will die. Within one year after death the dead ash trees will begin to shed larger branches and if the tree is near a home or other important structure the tree should be removed before it becomes unstable. A dead ash tree near a public street, whether on City ROW or adjacent private property, will need to be removed for public safety reasons. Please call your City Forester if you have questions about your ash tree or other trees or for suggestions about possible replacement tree species.