

## Forest Board Report March 2020

This past the month, the Forest Board was able to complete pruning of trees located in the right of way as well as holding one work day in Wren Park to begin clean up for the Dogwood Festival in April. The work day focused primarily on removing dead limbs from dogwoods. The next couple months the board will be busy planting trees in the right of way for the spring season.

In addition to tree pruning and park clean up, the board has been busy clarifying processes and procedures. More specifically, for the pruning and tree removal permit application process, the board is determining the proper sequencing of who should ensure the tree is in the right of way and when should the city arborists and Forest Board representative speak with the homeowner. For the new forest code, the board is deciding on the proper steps to follow if a homeowner chooses not to plant a replacement tree in the right of way after having a tree removed. Lastly, the board is discussing the potential penalties/processes to use if homeowners do not have city nuisance trees removed upon multiple notifications.

The City Forester has also been busy generating nuisance tree letters and pruning larger right of way trees that are too large for forest board volunteers. He will soon begin the city wide right of way inventory, which will take note of tree species, size, and available planting spaces across the city. This work will serve as the framework for the update to the Forest Board's strategic plan, which is scheduled for this year.

Michael Blum, Forest Board Chair