

## Forest Board Report January 2020

The Forest Board has been busy over the past couple months pruning nearly 80 percent of 190 smaller easement trees that have been planted over the past several years. This is a tremendous task completed by Forest Board members, so please thank project lead Leah Netherland and other volunteers Marie Eff, Gary Robben, Shirley Robben, Dale Kinney, Mick Vissing, and Rick Vissing for their continued service to our city! Our board members plan to complete the remaining 20 percent of trees over the coming months.

As previously mentioned, the Forest Board will again promote a structural pruning program this winter for easement trees that are too large for board members to prune. Through this program, the Forest Board will contact homeowners who have easement trees that are in need of pruning, arrange for pruning by arborists who are trained in structural pruning, and cover some of the cost (homeowners are responsible for partial cost as well) of structural pruning with the homeowners approval. The list of eligible trees for this program is being compiled now with the goal of letters being sent to residents later this Spring.

The Forest Board recently completed its second draft of the public tree nuisance removal/pruning process at the January Meeting. This process ensures that the board has a standard operating procedure in place when alerting residents and following up with residents about public tree nuisances. Once this process is completed and documented, the Forest Board chair will share the process with interested city council members.

The city web designer was able to upload the Forest Board's document detailing urban tree care on the city website homepage. Additionally, the forest board chair is working on updating the outdated text on the Forest Board webpage and hopes to have this completed in the coming months.

Lastly, the City Forester will soon begin a Right of Way tree species inventory. This inventory will be vital as the Forest Board begins to work on the next strategic plan. For each address, the inventory will include the tree family, genus, and species, stem diameter (diameter at breast height), any site limitations, and the size of any available tree planting locations. This work will allow the forest board to ensure we do not have an overconcentration of any one tree species on any street (protecting against future threats similar to the Emerald Ash Borer) as well as give a general sense to the number of available planting spaces in the neighborhood, so we can better focus our efforts in the coming years.

Michael Blum, Forest Board Chair