

Forest Board Report June 2019

Various Forest Board members participated in at least five workdays since our last meeting. These workdays included planting new trees, installing water bags, modifying tree cages to prevent damage from deer, readjusting easement tree stakes, and pruning trees in Wren Park. Upcoming volunteer workdays will be focused on maintaining the city parks and modifying tree cages in the parks to prevent deer damage to new trees.

Now that trees have leafed out for the summer, the City Forester is working to assess the impact of the Emerald Ash Borer on the city's ash trees over this past year. Additionally, he is working with the country club to identify hazard trees in the street easement along Cardinal Drive and to provide site recommendations for new tree plantings in the easement along Cardinal Drive. The Forest Board plans to work with the Country Club and provide it with the same services it provides to any Audubon Park resident.

The water line in Curlew park has been finished, and the meter has been installed in Oriole Park, with BC plumbing scheduled to complete the installation in Oriole Park soon.

Upcoming Forest Board initiatives include working with Bernheim Arboretum to create tree identification signs for common and noteworthy tree species in our city parks. Additionally, the board is working with the city web page designer to update the Forest Board city webpage to include additional information for homeowners on how to maintain and improve the health of city trees. Lastly, the Forest Board will begin to reanalyze the Community Forest Management Plan, which is due for renewal in 2020.

Michael Blum, Forest Board Chair