

Forest Board Report February 2019

Various Forest Board members participated in 7 tree pruning workdays since our last meeting. We still have about 35 of the original 190 Right of Way trees that we need to finish pruning. We are still working on getting our new pruning program started that will involve the use of a professional arborist to prune the tree branches that we can no longer reach. These are generally trees that have been planted in the past 12 years that now have branches that are too high for us to reach. Street trees need to have non-permanent branches that are less than 12 - 15 feet off the ground removed in a way that will not leave a permanent wound on the tree. Money for this project is already in our budget for the 2018/2019 Fiscal Year. We hope to have the appropriate person hired within the next couple of weeks.

Our City Forester is still working with about 7 homeowners who have already received 1 or more notices regarding the need to remove their hazardous trees. Most of these are Ash trees but there is also a Maple and an Oak Tree. Once the tree is removed and the Forest Board is allowed to plant another tree the homeowner will receive a \$250 payment toward the cost of tree removal.

Other projects that are still underway this month include installing water hook ups in Curlew and Oriole Parks. Work is still being done on the new Tree Ordinance.

Leah Netherland, Forest Board Chair