

FOREST BOARD REPORT

December 2017

The annual pruning of the 160 smaller trees in the right of way areas has begun now that the trees are dormant. We prune each year in order to keep the size of the lower nonpermanent branches small until they can be removed without leaving a permanent wound on the tree trunk. We also prune selective higher branches to ensure that there is a strong leader. A tree that develops a fork that is lower to the ground is at more risk for damage caused by extreme weather events. We are also pruning approximately 100 of the smaller trees in the parks. We have continued to mulch around the trees in all the parks. We have also continued to tidy up the flower beds in the various parks with the help of a few citizen volunteers.

We have evaluated our budget and now have enough of a surplus to pay to have a water spigot installed in Wren (Henderson) Park. This surplus came from digging the holes for tree plantings ourselves rather than paying to have the sites prepped. Also, we have not had to pay for any new trees in the parks as was budgeted.

That still leaves \$2500.00 and we also wish to propose hiring a part-time gardener to assist us with pruning and weeding tasks. I have worked over 500 volunteer hours in 2017. Marie Eff, another Forest Board member, worked over 300 hours on Forest Board projects. Other Forest Board members have worked over 100 hours on mulching, pruning and weeding in the parks. Those of us who are working the most hours do not feel that this is sustainable long term.

We are in the process of finishing the other budgeted items, including having some of the very large trees in the parks pruned for deadwood.

We are also discussing the Louisville Metro 2017 Tree Ordinance and how we may incorporate some of those policies into our own Forest Code.

We are continuing to identify new tree planting sites and reminding homeowners of our Incentive Program to replace ash trees with new canopy trees.

Leah Netherland
Chair