

Forester's Report 3 31 2017

Three burning permits were issued during March and residents were cautioned that safe burning is their responsibility especially as we get into dry, warm spring conditions.

Emerald ash borers were documented for the first time in the City on March 6th and confirmed by the Minnesota Department of Agriculture soon after. The infestation likely began 3-4 years ago and is now far enough along that we could find them. The trees are adjacent to the powerline corridor just east of Delaware Avenue. This new information does not change anything for the City except that we will be vigilant watching for dying ash trees close enough to City streets that they may become safety concerns. Any residents that have important ash trees worthy of saving should begin a program of preventative systemic insecticide treatments this spring. Once trees are heavily infested with EAB, insecticide treatments are a waste of money.

A boxelder tree fell onto Windy Hill Road due to high winds on the night of March 7th and it was cleaned up the 8th.

The second meeting of a citizen committee working to prevent mosquito borne diseases was held on March 15th at St. Anne's Church. Jake Crandall and Ann O'hagen shared their personal experiences with mosquito borne encephalitis. The committee decided that the date for the educational outreach walk-about would be Saturday morning, April 29th, and that committee members will walk through six areas of the City sharing ideas about mosquito prevention and dropping off information. The final organizational meeting will be on Wednesday, April 19th, at St. Anne's Church. Mike McLean from Metro Mosquito Control will speak at the next committee meeting. All residents are welcome to attend.

Horseshoe Lake ice-out was March 21st.

The water outlets from Sunfish Lake and Horseshoe Lake are checked weekly and cleared of debris as needed.

On March 31st I received notification the City of Sunfish Lake is now recognized as a Step 2 Green Step City. The City will be officially recognized at the League of Minnesota Cities Conference in June. To become a Step 3 City will require additional recognized sustainability actions and documentation.

Jim Naves
City Forester