

Minneapolis Tree Advisory Commission ANNUAL REPORT



Minneapolis Tree
Advisory
Commission

Presented August 17, 2009

Minneapolis Tree Advisory Commission

Created in March 2004
by the Minneapolis Park & Recreation Board



Minneapolis
Tree Advisory
Commission

MISSION:

To enhance the
Minneapolis urban forest
and improve its
long-term health.

MTAC Members

- Ralph Sievert – MPRB Forestry Director
- Mike Schmidt – MPRB Supervisor
- Scott Vreeland – MPRB Commissioner
- Lorrie Stromme – City Council designee
- John Slack – Mayor's designee
- George Welles – MnSTAC representative
- Lois Eberhardt – Mpls Public Works liaison
- Peggy Booth, Don Willeke, John Uban
- citizen representatives
- Kit Richardson - Developer

What we'll cover today:

- Current issues:
 - Response to emerald ash borer
 - Tree-watering
 - Aerial mapping of tree canopy
- Issues in the works:
 - Xcel Energy's tree-pruning
 - Design guidelines for streets and sidewalks
 - Alternative to tree grates
- MTAC recommendations

UNWANTED: Emerald Ash Borer!



- EAB has killed over 40 million ash trees in 13 states and Canada
- Minnesota has about 900 million ash trees
 - only Maine has more
- Minneapolis has 200,000 ash trees
 - 20% of all city trees
 - most are on private property

How EAB destroys ash trees

- Larvae eat the living tissue under the bark
 - cuts off flow of water and nutrients
- Feeding makes S-shaped pattern
- Trees die back
- Affected trees attacked by woodpeckers



1/2-inch adult



larva feeding



S-shaped gallery



woodpecker holes

Healthy ash tree



EAB-infested ash trees



Dieback at top



Epicormic sprouts

Response to emerald ash borer

- MPRB ceased planting ash
- Educational materials ready
- “Trap trees” monitored
- Purple traps in trees
- Firewood restrictions
- MN Dept of Ag. is lead agency



EAB TRAP TREE



Next steps for EAB

- Monitor ash trees and remove the worst first
- Don't prune or remove ash trees from May to September
- Policy issues:
 - selective pesticide use
 - selective tree removal
 - ordinance changes
- City of Minneapolis should be recognized as a stakeholder by MN Dept of Ag and DNR
 - most ash trees are on private property
- Identify funding sources
- Identify location to put cut-down ash trees

Proposed ordinance changes

- Chapter 347 – tree-servicing companies
 - require license to apply pesticides to trees
- Chapter 399 – Dutch elm disease control
 - amend to include EAB control
- §160.255 – sale/storage of elm wood
 - amend to include ash wood
- Make other pertinent ordinances EAB-ready

Marshaling yards for tree debris



Anticipated costs

- MPRB's estimate = \$26 million to
 - remove 38,000 public ash trees over time
 - grind stumps
 - replant boulevard trees
- St. Paul's plan:
 - remove 3,000 ash trees/year
 - estimated cost: \$3 million/year

EAB resources for the public

- www.emeraldashborer.info
- EAB “Arrest the Pest” Hotline: 651-201-6684
- U of MN: treeinfo@umn.edu or 612-624-2030
 - 200 trained EAB First Detectors to look at ash trees
- MPRB Forestry – 612-313-7710
 - public trees in parks and boulevards

Efforts to improve tree-watering

- MPRB added water trailers
 - 10,000 gallons of water/week
- Priority: newly planted trees
- Public encouraged to help
- Tree gators are a visual cue to water
- MFD helps

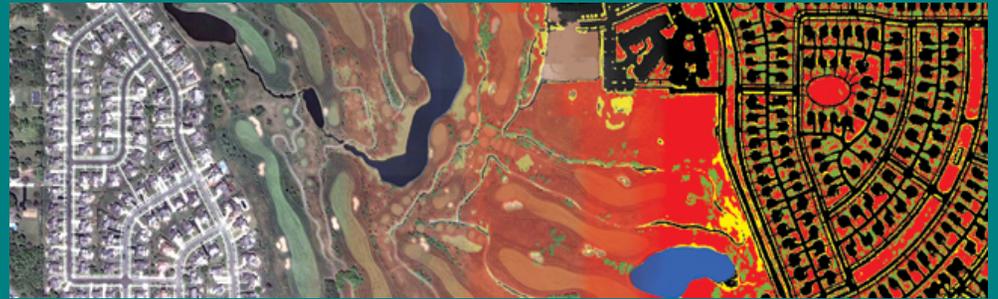


Tree canopy targets

- 30% tree cover by 2030
 - Currently ~ 25%
- We're losing more trees than we're planting
 - 4,000 public trees planted in 2009
 - Net loss of 9,000 trees in past 5 years
- Offset losses to disease and insects
 - Loss of 24-inch-diameter trees
 - results in disproportionate impact on tree canopy
 - Replaced by 1 $\frac{3}{4}$ -inch-diameter trees

Aerial mapping sets benchmark for tree canopy

- GIS-based land-cover data
 - Urban tree canopy, impervious surfaces, water, bare soil
- Monitor canopy-cover targets
- Quantify value of trees in storm water reduction, energy savings, air quality
- Will benefit City, MPRB, watersheds districts
 - Cost: ~ \$90,000 to \$120,000



Incentives for private-property owners



Silva cell



- Plant trees in silva cells
 - manage storm water
- Plant trees in commercial lawns
- Incentive: reduced storm-water fee

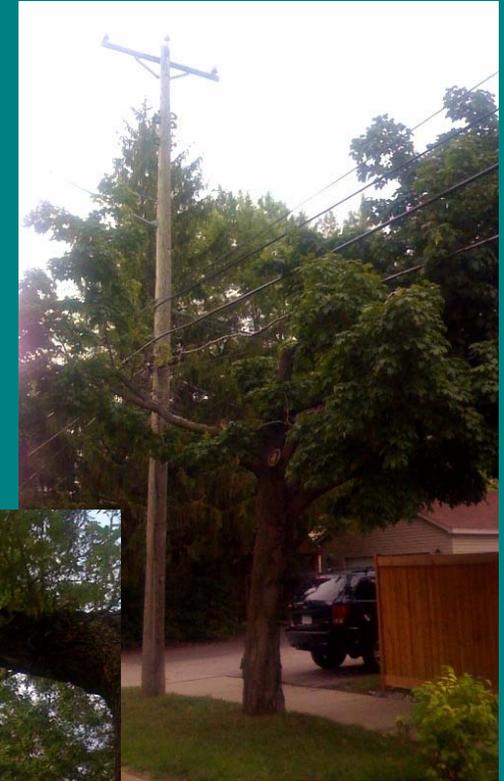
Tree-planting in 2009

- MPRB planted 4,000 trees in public spaces
- Arbor Day at Waite Park Elementary School
 - 75 trees planted
 - 400 students participated
- City Trees Program
 - 850+ trees planted in private yards



Issues to work on:

- Xcel Energy's tree-pruning
 - improve Xcel's notice to residents before pruning
 - educate the public re: aesthetics vs. pruning
 - work w/ cable co. re: low cables
- Avoid tree grates where possible



New tree-friendly techniques

Alternatives to tree grates:

- raised planters
- permeable paving
- roof runoff channels

Sidewalk vs. tree roots

- 6-inch-thick sidewalks
- tree-root channels

Coordinated sidewalk/curb replacement

Public/Private shared responsibility



MTAC Recommendations:

- Continue to fund City Trees Program
- Adopt “Design Guidelines for Streets and Sidewalks” in 2009
- City and MPRB unite in a communication strategy re: EAB
 - both public and private trees
- Increase tree canopy to 30% by 2030
- Develop a new street-tree Master Plan
 - more species diversity
- Make ordinances EAB-ready