

2019 Annual Parks & Forestry Report

Forestry Overview

We have a joint forestry crew of 5 men made up of three street department employees, and two parks department employees. Emerald Ash Borer has still been our primary focus since 2012. We are reaching the end of the removal stage and will be able to focus more on pruning and monitoring the last roughly 300 Ash trees we are injecting to save. We have had several areas in unmanaged open space property with Ash trees that were creating potential hazards to adjacent residents. Many of these cases were handled last year, eliminating the risk. We hold weekly safety meetings covering preventable incidents and safe working practices in the field. The team also attended levels 1 and 2 chainsaw safety training in 2019. I further attended 2 conferences held by the Wisconsin Arborist Association focusing on proper management and safety.

Planting is done every year in two phases, one in spring and one in fall. This is to compensate timing for road construction projects. In our open space lands, we try to set up volunteer and educational opportunities to plant seedlings. This helps us cover larger areas and keep labor costs down. Looking ahead we will be spending more time on our structural pruning management plan to promote proper growth on our younger trees.

- **Safely took down over 400 sixty foot + Ash trees along Valley Creek on Parkview Drive.**
- **Removed over 200 street trees**
- **Structurally pruned over 200 street trees.**
- **Planted over 700 seedlings in Birchwood Hills Nature Preserve consisting of 10 different varieties with TJMS middle school.**
- **Planted over 300 street trees comprised of 20 different varieties.**

Parks Overview

There are 34 designated parks within the city covering 160 acres. Some is unmanaged natural areas, but the majority is maintained by our staff. We also assist in maintain the grounds for the library, police dept. and the wastewater treatment plant. This consists of one working superintendent, one full time employee, one 50% shared employee and 8 seasonal workers. We also have several volunteers and volunteer groups that help us with grounds maintenance. During the growing season much of our time is dedicated to mowing grass and maintaining plants. We work in cooperation with the street department tree planting trees and with tree removals. Listed below gives points to what we have done over 2019.

Looking forward we are and have been making a shift from annual to perennial and native pollinators. This will help cut back on reoccurring costs and be far more beneficial to the environment. We will also be looking at ways to cut back on mowing by moving some grass areas back to native prairie. There is a limited budget and a small staff but there are ways to make this work. We have several volunteer residents that consistently work on planting bed maintenance throughout the growing season. There are also volunteer and school groups such as TJMS, the Ozaukee garden club, and the Environmental Planning Committee that help us with larger maintenance projects.

Performed inspections on all play equipment and stru Forestry Overview

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- **Mowed and maintained turf areas for 32 parks.**
- **Planted over 100 flats of annual and perennial flowers.**
- **Maintained (weeding, watering and pruning) over 50 planting beds.**

- **Maintained 50+ large annual flowerpots throughout the city.**
- **Added five new native perennial beds around park signs.**
- **Removed 1500 sq.ft. of asphalt and reestablished turf at Stacker Park along with having the basketball court resurfaced.**
- **Assisted with the preconstruction for possibility playground's new surface and additions.**
- **Added new playground and installed drainage system at Antoine park.**