



## Urban Forestry Updates – December 2020

### Fall Planting:

- Donation tree at Liberty Park on election day (donated by Senator Billig, through the Susie Forest)
- A bald cypress tree was planted at Lower Lincoln Park in honor of Arborist Jeff Perry's 20 years with the City
- SpoCanopy Planting with The Lands Council – 35 trees (West Central and Logan neighborhoods)
- Contract Fall Planting (was postponed from the spring) 24 trees, primarily in Logan and the East Central Neighborhood
- West Havermale park trees have been planted, North Bank to be planted in the spring

### Maintenance Work:

- Arboretum - Assistance summer/fall with mowing and leaf cleanup and other duties (since seasonal staff is limited)
- Riverside clearance pruning was completed for better vision under canopies for security purposes
- Numerous weeks of storm damage repair / response due to the early October snow. Mostly minor damage throughout the parks system, however required a lot of clean up by Operations staff and UF crew. We did lose a limited number of trees, including one willow at Riverfront Park.
- Fish Lake Trail – addressed numerous issues and clearance, site identified for future fuels reduction / forest health project due to closely spaced young trees
- WCC Crew to assist with fuels reduction work in the conservation area adjacent to Esmeralda Golf Course and Minnehaha Park.
- Soon – winter tree work including removal of dead trees throughout the parks system. Routine pruning and young tree training also as time allows.
- We will soon be bringing back one seasonal employee to assist on the tree crew for the next 6 months (only one seasonal all year for the tree crew). Adam Sweeney is a former teacher who has also has an urban forestry degree. Additionally, he is interested in assisting with other urban forestry projects and education programs as time may allow.
- Staff will soon help hang holiday lights at Manito Park with the bucket truck.

### Education and Outreach:

- Still exploring an Adopt a Tree Program for the arboretum as a fundraising opportunity
- Pacific Northwest Chapter of International Society of Arboriculture Annual Training Conference (virtual) completed this fall
- A grant project with the Pacific Education Institute (PEI) is well on its way. This project includes professional development opportunities for teachers and Urban Forestry / tree benefits information gets integrated into their curriculum. The project also includes various community outreach/engagement items and street trees will be planted in the spring with this project. In addition, PEI has applied for



another DNR Urban Forestry Environmental Justice Grant to build upon this project.

- October was proclaimed Urban and Community Forestry Month by the Mayor (this was completed in lieu of an Arbor Day Proclamation in the spring, since the event had been cancelled).
- DNR would like to coordinate a tree planting event in the spring to recognize projects in Spokane, including PEI and Lands Council grant projects and efforts in NE neighborhoods. This had been planned for fall 2020, however, was postponed due to Covid-19.
- We are looking at a partnership project with The Lands Council, EWU, and the SAS Committee to map and prioritize planting spots/opportunities throughout the city.
- The crew will be supplying wood chip mulch for the WSU Extension to provide to the community (previously this was coordinated through the Water Dept).
- Staff will be providing chainsaw safety for Street and Utility Dept staff (they handle storm damage response throughout the city if it impacts streets or sidewalks). They are working on a possible video which would be beneficial for future use.
- Tree Stewardship training and minor pruning training is being coordinated for Golf Course Superintendents and Assistants.
- We would like to explore the CAC working on a tree retention / consumer awareness program (discussed with the CAC).

#### Engineering/Permitting/Plan Reviews:

- Street tree permits steadily coming in, high volume during storm events
- Tree Scope of Works created for various city projects – curb ramp projects, Centennial Trail Gap, Hatch Bridge and more
- STA Project for the CCL is well on its way, some the locations have been completed (added many trees) and the project continues next year
- Staff completed a Tree Scope of Work for the irrigation project for Downriver Golf Course
- Development has been incredibly busy. Staff are now inspecting all SFR/Duplex locations, which has added quite the workload, and there has been a learning curve with developers. We have created a brochure which clearly outlines the requirements in fulfilling street tree requirements. Bonds will be issued during winter and contractors receive refunds after planting in the spring.
- There has been some push back on the V-101 planting detail, which is in line with ANSI A300 standards. We are working on an educational program to assist landscape professionals to ensure a speedy sign-off with no or limited corrections at development sites.
- The Riverside project was scaled back (due to an unsuccessful grant) and will not add or remove/replace declining trees.
- Numerous city projects were completed. The Five Mile project added a significant number of street trees.

#### Other:

- Many contracted projects were postponed this year due to budget concerns with Covid-19.
- We continue to receive high volume of phone calls and emails, requests for general information and reports of tree issues at parks and within the right-of-way.



- We have focused on core services this year and haven't been able to fill two full time UF positions due to a hiring freeze. Seasonal staff has also been limited. However, we have just hired someone through The Next Generation Zone to assist with admin duties part time, which will be of great benefit.
- SpoCanopy planting with the Lands Council – Continue partnership program for a spring 2021 and/or fall 2021 street tree planting.
- We are happy to announce CM Kinnear has secured an additional \$50,000 from the Stormwater Utility Dept (for 2021) to support the tree canopy cover goal.
- Central Business District (CBD) removal/replacements were cancelled due to a lack of parking funds in 2020, anticipate the same possible for 2021.
- The UF chipper had a major repair needed and we are looking at the possibility of acquiring a new one as well, so we have back up equipment when needed.
- We will be putting together a Scope of Work for replacement trees in areas maintained by the Water Dept. There were some locations with tree mortality over the summer due to water stress. We are also looking to assist in coordinating volunteer mulch spreading around street trees in their areas which need to be replenished (will also prevent mower damage).