

September 7, 2020

City Ash Tree Summary and Renewal Efforts

In September 2019, the inventory of Carrington's 'city trees' was completed and found 1,859 trees in this category. Of these trees, 887, or 48%, are ash trees which are all susceptible to the emerald ash borer (EAB) insect which is expected to kill every ash tree in areas where it appears. The city is looking at ways to improve our city forest prior to the arrival of EAB.

The City ash trees are in marginal condition due to our typical prairie climate and the additional stress of being a boulevard tree. Forty percent of the ash trees are classified as "poor, very poor or dead/dying," while 43% are "fair". Only 7.4% of the City ash trees were classified as "good." The small remaining number are stumps that need to be removed.

The tree board is making plans to work with homeowners to begin the process of ash tree removal and replacement. Ideas include organizing tree removal to get a better price for homeowners, providing a monetary subsidy when an ash tree is removed and replaced with a new tree from a list of approved trees, and organizing the purchase of bareroot trees to obtain a good price for a larger-sized tree.

As a reminder, City trees are within the boulevard area between the curb and sidewalk, or if there isn't a sidewalk, they are within 13 feet of the curb on most streets or within 20 feet on a few streets. These trees are the property of the City but the homeowner has the responsibility for their care maintenance.

For more information, please see the City website at www.carringtonnd.com. Tree board information is listed under City Departments.