

Elizabeth Dean Fund Committee

STAFF REPORT: MAY 14, 2019

Tree planting update. All tree planting projects are on hold until the fall 2019 planting season. Due to staff turnover, trees were not ordered for spring planting. All projects will have a planting start date during fall 2019 or spring 2020.

Guest Speaker: Scott Spooner, Deputy Manager – Maintenance, Ann Arbor Parks & Recreation.

PROJECT UPDATES

- 1. S. 7th Street Planting near W. Stadium Blvd (Pioneer High School):** Due to the vacancy, trees were not ordered for the spring planting project. This project can be picked up again this fall. (Per Kerry Gray).
Note: keep plantings on 7th street. Do not plant along W. Stadium due to potential for roadway/utility reconstruction in the next few years that could impact the Pioneer High School lawn extension.
- 2. 2018 Tree Planting (sign area):** All tree that were scheduled to be planted for this project are complete. Trees will be looked at this spring to check the health of the trees.
Note: Scott Spooner will give an update on the status of extending the irrigation lines to this area during his report.
- 3. Argo Park:** Construction slated to begin this year. Guardian Tree Experts have looked at the site and provided Scott Spooner with recommendations.
Note: Scott Spooner will give an update on the status and timing of this project and what's being done for the existing trees that are to be saved.
- 4. South State St. and Eisenhower Pkwy.:** Traffic study is complete. The South State Street Corridor Study is broken into four phases (Page 14 of the [South State Street // Corridor Study](#)). Planting is not recommended here at this time due to future construction projects within the next 5-10 years.
Phase 1: Signage/Operational Improvements – Airport Blvd/Research Park Drive
Phase 2: Reconstruct State Street from I-94 WB Ramps to Oakbrook
Phase 3: Reconstruct I-94 Interchange Bridge/Ramp Intersections
Phase 4: Reconstruct State Street from Ellsworth Road to I-94 EB Ramps
- 5. Champion Tree List:** This program identifies and catalogs the largest tree of each species within the city. The list includes trees across all ownerships: city, private, and university. The list is up to date and live on the city's webpage: [Champion Trees Map](#).
Note: The press release on this was not distributed during staff turnover. At this point, the list is live and it is not recommended by Staff Communication Specialist to publish a press release at this time, but when the list is updated again.

- W. Stadium Blvd (Pioneer High School) near 7th Street:** Per Mike Nearing, Senior Project Manager – Engineering: At this point in time, the reconstruction of W. Stadium is not contained within the CIP. The project will be placed in the CIP with construction slated for some time within the next (estimated) 5-7 years due to the pavement condition and the need for storm sewer/storm water improvements. ADDITIONALLY, engineering is working on a project to remedy flooding in the Snyder/Edgewood Avenues area (just north of Pioneer High School) that could have impacts on a portion of the lawn extension adjacent to Pioneer High School. Engineering recommends the EDFC avoid planting street trees in this location until they better understand and implement the future constructions projects in this area.

POTENTIAL PROJECT SITES

- Tappan Middle School tree planting along E. Stadium Blvd.** This area has a lot of underground utilities running through it. There are four small vacant planting sites that could be planted, with one existing zelkova.



- Vet’s Park potential Soldier Row:** There are two options: (1) keep the existing trees and intersperse with new large canopy trees or (2) remove all existing trees and replant with all large trees.

Existing Conditions: This area was planted with crabapples. As they’ve declined, they’ve been replaced with crabapples. There are also several stumps located here (identified with red + on the adjacent image). Norway maples are across the street. **Norway maples cannot be planted. We would ask Hillary Hanzel, Landscape Architect, to draw up plans showing the two options.**





3. **DDA Huron Street Project Update:** The silva cell treatment ultimately did not move forward as part of the Huron Street Project. Once the team got further into the details, it created significant challenges for utilities, vaults, and other project elements. Despite this, the design team still took extra care designing with the trees as the central element. The trees were also bid separately to ensure we obtained large, healthy trees. Huron Street Project construction began April 10th.

4. **Dean Promenade/Main Street (in front of Shinola & Kilwin's):** There is one planter area not planted. The stump remains as there is fiber running directly beneath the stump. To excavate this pit and remove the stump, hydro-spading would be needed to expose all the roots and the fiber line so the stump can be removed without damage to the cable. The pit could then be refilled and replanted.



5. **Gateways to Ann Arbor:** – Replace two trees. Staff is not aware of trees that need to be replaced at this time.

ARBOR DAY 2019

West Park: Friday, May 17, 2019 (9:30am to 11:30am)

EDFC's Arbor Day Celebration will be held on Friday, May 17th from 9:30am-11:30am at West Park. The itinerary for the event are outlined below. There are two Champion Trees located in West Park: bur oak and northern red oak. We can take photos of with them, and then plant 2-4 new trees. We will plant chestnut oaks. The exact planting location within the park has yet to be determined. Hillary, our Landscape Architect, is working to determine the best planting location for them.

Event Details:

Who: EDFC Members, Staff Liaison, City Forestry Staff

What: Celebrate the City's Champion Trees and Plant "Future Champion Tree."

When: Friday, May 17, 2019 from 9:30am-11:30AM

Where: West Park