

# Salida Tree Board

Salida City Hall  
448 E. 1st Street, Suite 112  
719-539-4555  
[www.cityofsalida.com](http://www.cityofsalida.com)



*A town without trees isn't fit for a dog!*

## **Board Meeting September 13, 2016**

**Members Present:** Jill Flodstrom, Kathryn Hardgrave, Tom Jacobson, M'Lynne Kenney, Marilyn Moore, Bob Salmi, Diana Smith

**Also Present:** Dave Hinman, Public Works/GIS; Jim LiVecchi, Mayor

**2016 Budget:** Dara told Marilyn that the budget for trees included in the public works budget was \$10,000. In fact, there are *two* budgets: \$10,000 for park trees and \$10,000 for street trees! \$5000 was spent to prune in the east side of Riverside Park this spring; with what is left in that budget, Terra Firma Forestry will prune the elms in the north end of Thonoff. From the street trees budget, \$2200 was spent on the Adopt-a-Tree program, \$3125 has been budgeted for removing the six trees on the removal list, and about \$2200 will be spent on the GIS inventory, leaving more than \$2000 for additional removals. Jim had asked about removing the dead trees on C Street adjacent to the Touber Building; Kevin Andreas is going to try to get a prison crew to do that work at no cost to the city.

**Tree Inventory:** Dave has inventoried 1500 trees in the city right-of-ways, and only about four streets in the SE quadrant of the city remain to be entered in the database. Kathryn recalls that she inventoried about 1900 trees in 2000, so we have lost quite a few. She again suggested that we invite a Mountain Mail reporter to accompany Dave and Marilyn when they next go out to inventory the trees. The inventory records the condition of the trees and notes hazardous trees, which will be a priority for removal.

**2017 Budget:** Jake and Marilyn will present a budget request at the October 3 work session. At that time we should have the numbers from the inventory, which will make clear just how much needs to be done to maintain the urban forest.

**Trees on Private Property:** Salida is losing the large shade trees in the city right-of-ways. The space available is appropriate for replanting smaller ornamental species or medium shade tree species only. Tree Board would like to make funds available to homeowners who will plant the large shade tree species in their lawns. In the past, tree board had been told by the city attorney that public funds cannot be used to plant on private property. Jim will consult with the new attorney and get his opinion on this. Conservation Trust Fund monies may indeed be restricted.

**Trees in New Developments:** Developers are required by the land use code to plant trees in the right-of-ways, but there is no oversight to see that the trees are planted correctly and are adequately watered and maintained. In discussion, one suggestion was that the city require a bond from the developer guaranteeing that they will survive three years. Another was that the city require the developer to pay into a fund that would be used to purchase and plant the trees once the lot has been developed and the homeowner is there to water the tree, as Buena Vista does. Jake will discuss this with PT Wood, chair of the planning commission, and with the new development director when that person is hired.

**Watering Downtown Trees:** PVC pipe that is cut at an acute angle and hammered into the soil in each tree well downtown would make it possible to get water deep into the root zone. The pipe would be capped between waterings. We will try this first on a couple of trees before doing all 24.

**Riverside Trees:** WalMart carries 3 foot diameter rubber mats to “mulch” around younger trees and keep mowers away from the trunk. This seems a better solution than wood mulch that would just get scattered all over the park. Jake will order the mats when he has a tree number.

**Sidewalk Replacement:** A young ash at 743 E Street was badly damaged by the crew that was removing the old sidewalk and putting in forms for the new – limbs broken, a root badly splintered rather than cleanly cut, the root ripped up and the bark at the base of the tree torn off. Bob will let the contractor know that this is not acceptable.

**Stream Restoration:** LTUA is working on stream restoration along the South Arkansas, and they would like 16 – 18’ tree stumps with the roots still attached. The stumps with roots out at the reservoir are not that long, but LTUA is welcome to take what is there.

**Guide to Salida Trees:** Kathryn suggested that tree board should apply for a Colorado Tree Coalition grant to update *A Guide to Salida Trees* on the city website. The update would include new photos, new species recommendations, some revised text, etc.

**NEXT TREE BOARD MEETING: Tuesday, October 11, 8 am, Toubert Building, Methodist Mountain Conference Room (just to left of front door)**

