

Salida Tree Board

Salida City Hall
448 E. 1st Street, Suite 112
719-539-4555
www.cityofsalida.com



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

Board Meeting December 9, 2014

Members Present: Kathryn Hardgrave, Jill Flodstrom, Marilyn Moore, Dan Osborn, Bob Salmi, Diana Smith

Also Present: Jessica Lattanzio, Salida Code Enforcement Officer

Proper Pruning Enforcement: Arborists licensed by the city of Salida are required to adhere to the Salida pruning specifications, and failure to do so can result in a fine and/or revocation of the license. Tree Board asked Jessica to contact the homeowner if she sees a tree that has been inappropriately pruned, particularly if it has been topped, and find out if it is the work of a licensed arborist.

H Street Project: There is no money left in the budget for the H Street project, so any money for replanting street trees will have to come from the tree board's 2015 budget for pruning and Adopt-a-Tree planting. There is to be another public meeting regarding the project and homeowners can either be given an application to adopt a tree or directed to the city website to download a tree adoption application. Where homeowners lost a tree because of the project, the board feels it would be adding insult to injury to ask for the usual \$50 adoption fee. The second phase of the project will go from 8th to US 50, and where there is no sidewalk or curb, curb and gutter only will be installed, so tree removals may not be necessary.

Shade Tree Program: Jill has received requests for three more shade trees, which she will order if the species are still available. Orders cannot be submitted to the CTC after December 15.

Emerald Ash Borer: Kathryn attended training in Boulder in identifying ash trees infested by EAB. The experience there is that the insect first attacks trees in hell strips and parking lots. It is expected that the insect will likely take out all the green ash in the South Platte drainage. The insect will only make it to Salida if brought in on infected firewood, so the (nation-wide!) message needs to be "Don't travel with firewood"! When an ash tree is pruned or removed, a 2 – 4" live limb from the mid-crown of the tree on the south side should first be removed at the trunk and sent to Kathryn at the CSFS for examination. The CSFS will first need a service agreement with Salida.

City Tree Inventory: Middle school science teacher Kate Madden is submitting a grant to Samsung for students to do a GIS survey of trees in the city right-of-ways and parks, noting species, size (DBH), and condition. The latter will be especially important to monitoring green ash for EAB. She said that there is sufficient student interest that she may proceed with the

survey project even if she does not get the grant. Jessie suggested that Americorps members might also be able to do a GIS survey. Another possibility would be importing aerial photos and identifying the trees in each photo.

Western Colorado Forestry Conference: Kathryn reported on the WCFC that she attended in Grand Junction. Several points that were made by the presenters pertinent to Salida:

- Urban trees in the inter-mountain west generally receive adequate moisture to survive but not to thrive, and drip irrigation is not sufficient if trees are to develop an extensive root system. Tree roots will grow only where there is soil moisture. Do Salida landscapers realize this?

- Recommended species for the I-M west are moderate to slow growers including European larch, lacebark pine, paperbark maple, Turkish filbert/hazelnut, gingko, Kentucky coffeetree, amur corktree, bur oak and other oaks, and Japanese tree lilac.

- On the Front Range, European elm scale, which infests American elms, has developed resistance to Merit, an insecticide with which we have treated Salida's American elms in the past. The recommendation now is for a multi-pronged approach – horticultural oil in combination with dinotefuran (Safari®, Zylam®, Transect®), a systemic that can be sprayed on the base of a tree, and also insect growth regulators.

- Where a homeowner is concerned about a large limb over-hanging a house close to the roof, removing that limb creates a clear path for a limb higher up that could attain some velocity and do some real damage.

Russian Olives Along Salida Trail: Russian olives are considered a noxious plant in Colorado. Tree board discussed removing those along the trail west of Holman and replacing them with more desirable species. Bob suggested that they could be cut down with the 6' sickle bar mower, but it might be better to leave them for the time being to protect new trees from wind until the new trees get established. We would want to work with SPOT, LTUA, and GARNA on this project.

NEXT TREE BOARD MEETING: Tuesday, January 13, 8 am, River's Edge