



Request for City Council Committee Action from the City Coordinators Office

Date: April 30, 2012

To: Honorable Elizabeth Glidden, Chair, Regulatory, Energy and Environment Committee

Subject: Annual Minneapolis Tree Advisory Committee Report

Recommendation: Receive and File

Department Information

Prepared by: Gayle Prest, Minneapolis Sustainability Director and Lorrie Stromme, Program Coordinator, Mississippi Watershed Management Organization

Approved by: Jayne Baccus Khalifa, Interim City Coordinator

Presenter in Committee: Peggy Booth, Co-chair of Minneapolis Tree Advisory Committee

Financial Impact

No financial impact.

Background

The Minneapolis Tree Advisory Commission (MTAC) was formed in March 2004 by the Minneapolis Park & Recreation Board (MPRB). MTAC's mission is to enhance the Minneapolis urban forest and improve its long-term health. MTAC members include a city council designate (Robin Garwood), mayoral designate (John Slack), five citizen representatives, two representatives from the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board, staff from Minneapolis Public Works, a developer/business representative, and representatives from the University of Minnesota, the Minnesota Shade Tree Advisory Committee, and Tree Trust.

Each year, MTAC presents its report on the State of the Minneapolis Urban Forest to the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board and the Minneapolis City Council.

Highlights

- MPRB planted 5,589 trees in parks and boulevards in 2011.
- Residents planted 1,500 trees in private yards in 2011 as part of City Trees Program.
- The City Trees Program is so popular that the 1,500 trees on sale in March 2012 sold out in 3 days. The fruit trees sold out in just two hours.
- The Minneapolis Tree Canopy mapping tool is now available to everyone online – it maps tree canopy and opportunities to plant new trees down to the parcel level.
- Thousands of trees in parks, boulevards, and yards were lost in May 2011 tornado.
- *TreeCovery* program is planting 3,011 boulevard trees in the tornado area in April and May 2012.

- Tree Trust is distributing 400 free trees this spring and additional trees this fall in the tornado area.

Recommendations

- Drought response: coordinate a campaign to enlist the public's help to water trees
 - Help spread the word among residents that watering a boulevard tree weekly for five months (spring to fall) costs only \$3
 - Coordinate the message among the City, MPRB, ward e-newsletters, 311, watershed districts
 - Re-engage the Fire Department in helping to water public trees
- Use stormwater wisely
 - Help trees thrive in tough urban places to manage the most stormwater
 - Use tree-friendly planting methods, like continuous tree trenches and tree-friendly soils
- Plant trees strategically
 - Use the online Tree Canopy tool to target places where trees are needed
 - Promote planting trees that will get big, in order to get the most bang for the buck
- Support the City Trees Program
 - Continue funding this program for residential and commercial properties
 - Secure funding for additional trees for tornado victims