

Minneapolis Tree Advisory Commission

ANNUAL REPORT

Presented to Minneapolis City Council's
Health, Environment & Community Engagement Committee
June 20, 2016



Minneapolis
Tree Advisory
Commission

Minneapolis Tree Advisory Commission

Created in March 2004

by the Minneapolis Park & Recreation Board

MISSION:

To enhance the Minneapolis urban forest and improve its long-term health.

GOALS:

To coordinate tree-related issues across city jurisdictions.

To evaluate tree-related issues & report to MPRB/City Council.

To coordinate fiscal resources.

To explore new ways to acquire funds to increase support for urban forest establishment & management.



Minneapolis
Tree Advisory
Commission

Minneapolis Tree Advisory Commission

members

- Peggy Booth, citizen **CO-CHAIR**
- Lorrie Stromme, MnSTAC **CO-CHAIR**
- Don Willeke, citizen **Secretary**
- Charley Underwood, citizen
- Robert Buck, citizen
- Jeanne LaBore, citizen
- Kit Richardson, developer
- Jim Walsh, arborist
- Scott Vreeland, MPRB (outgoing)
- Steffanie Musich (incoming)
- Ralph Sievert, MPRB
- Philip Potyondy, MPRB
- Peter MacDonagh, UMN & Mayor
- Robin Garwood, City Council designee
- Clyde Kane, Mpls Public Schools
- Lois Eberhart, Mpls Public Works
- Steve Collin, Mpls Public Works



Report Topics

- **State of the Urban Forest**
- **Urban Forest Policy**
- **Project Plans**
 - ✓ Accomplishments
 - ✓ Threats & Opportunities
 - ✓ 2016 Recommendations



A photograph of two men working in a park. The man in the foreground is wearing a green tank top and sunglasses, using a rake to spread mulch around a tree. The man in the background is wearing a yellow safety vest and blue jeans, also using a rake. A white pickup truck is parked nearby. In the background, there is a playground and a picnic table.

STATE OF THE URBAN FOREST

Are we sustaining our trees?

The State of Our Urban Forest Emerald Ash Borer (EAB)

Losses are accelerating -
now affecting most of
Minneapolis



Emerald Ash Borer Spread by Neighborhood

2010



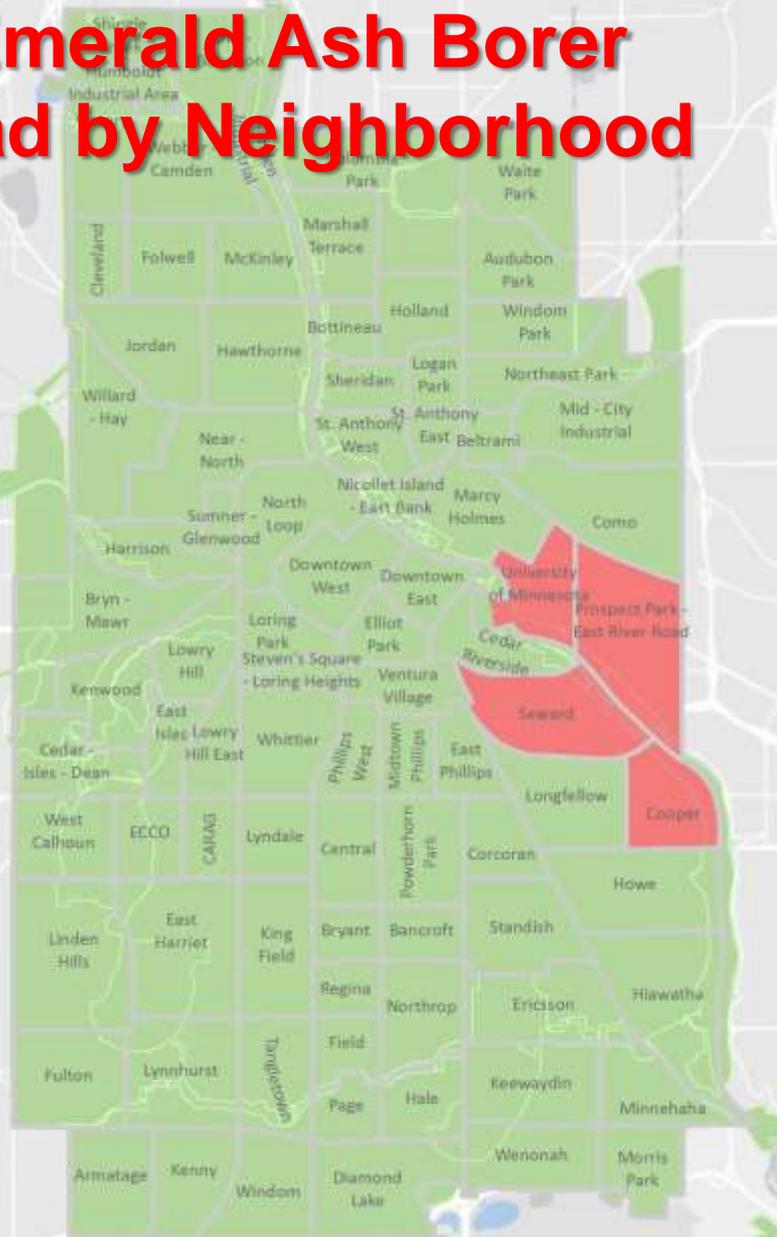
Emerald Ash Borer Spread by Neighborhood

2011



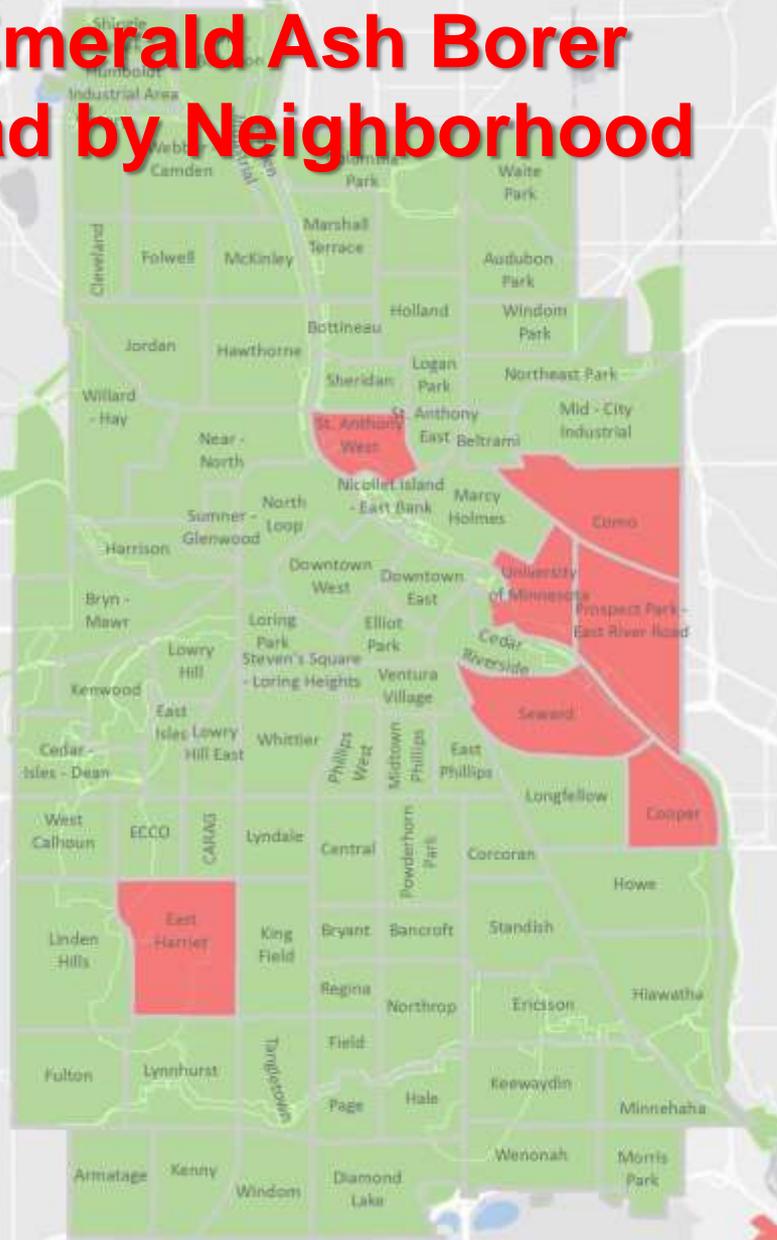
Emerald Ash Borer Spread by Neighborhood

2012



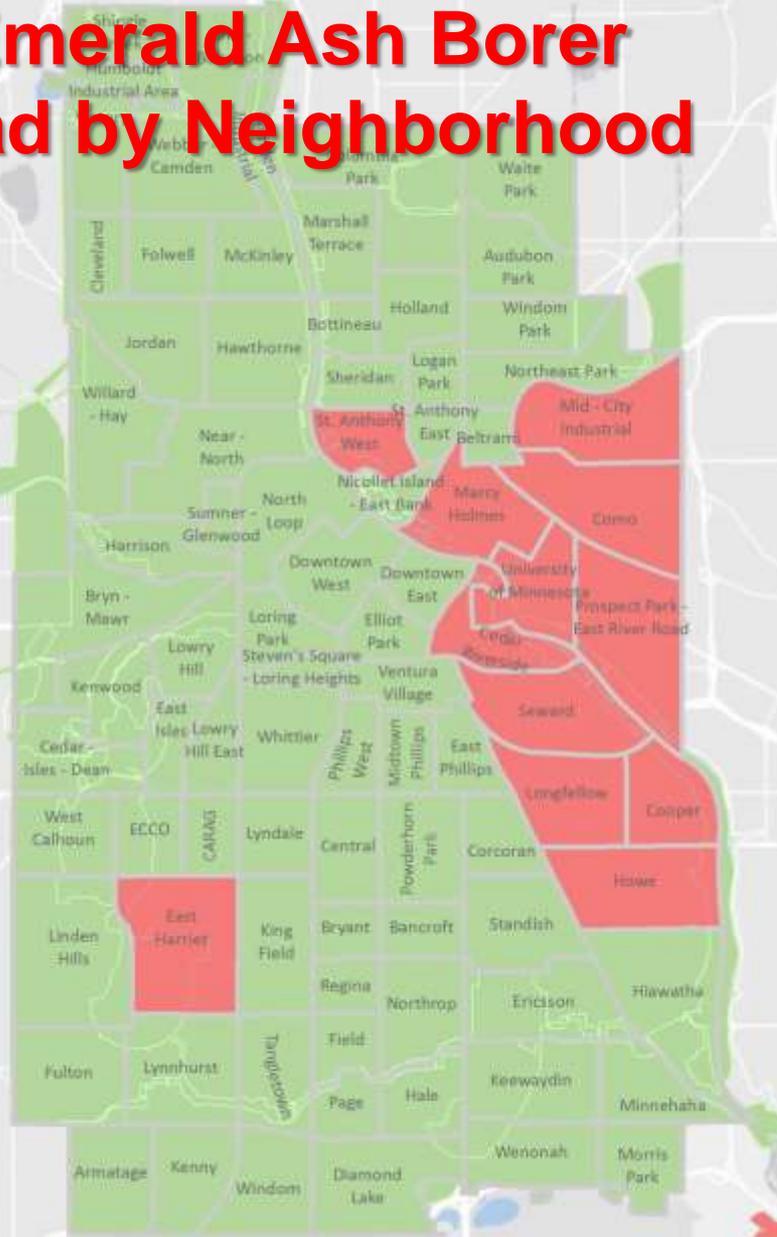
Emerald Ash Borer Spread by Neighborhood

2013



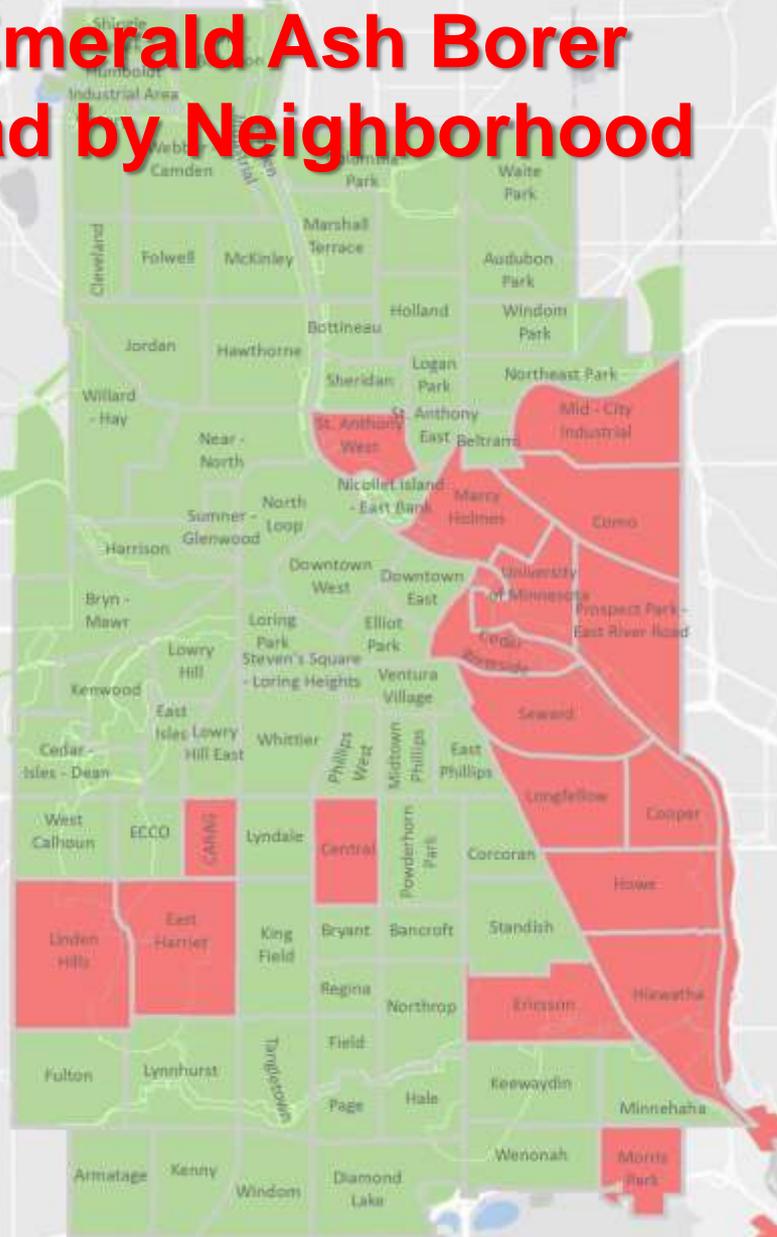
Emerald Ash Borer Spread by Neighborhood

2014



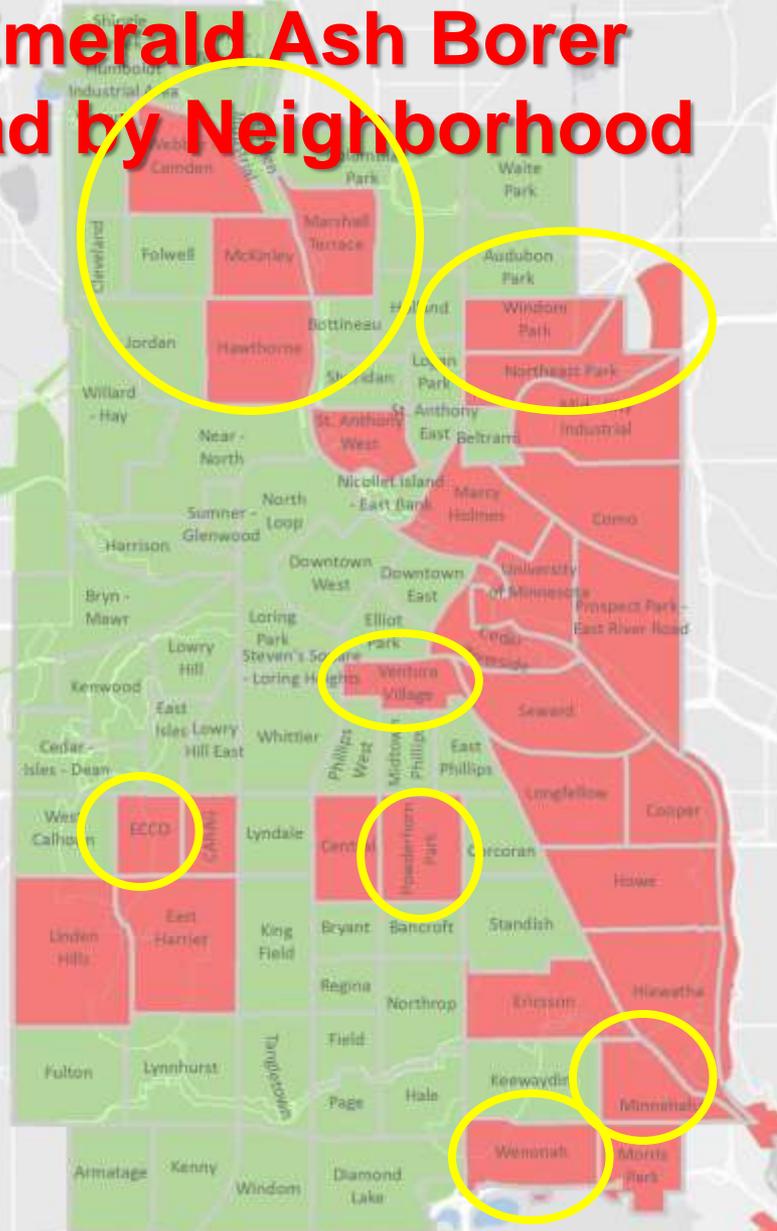
Emerald Ash Borer Spread by Neighborhood

2015



Emerald Ash Borer Spread by Neighborhood

2016

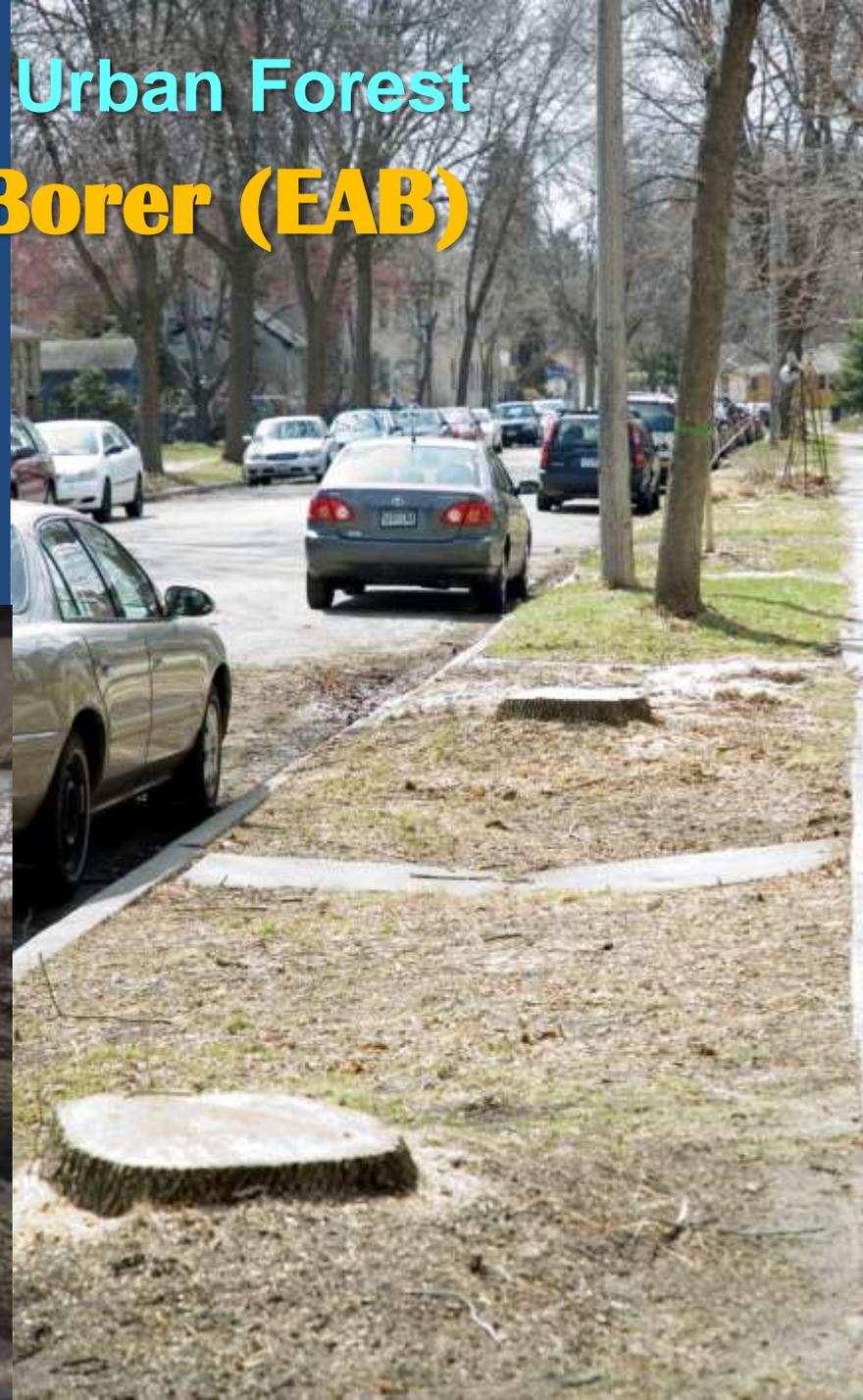


The State of Our Urban Forest

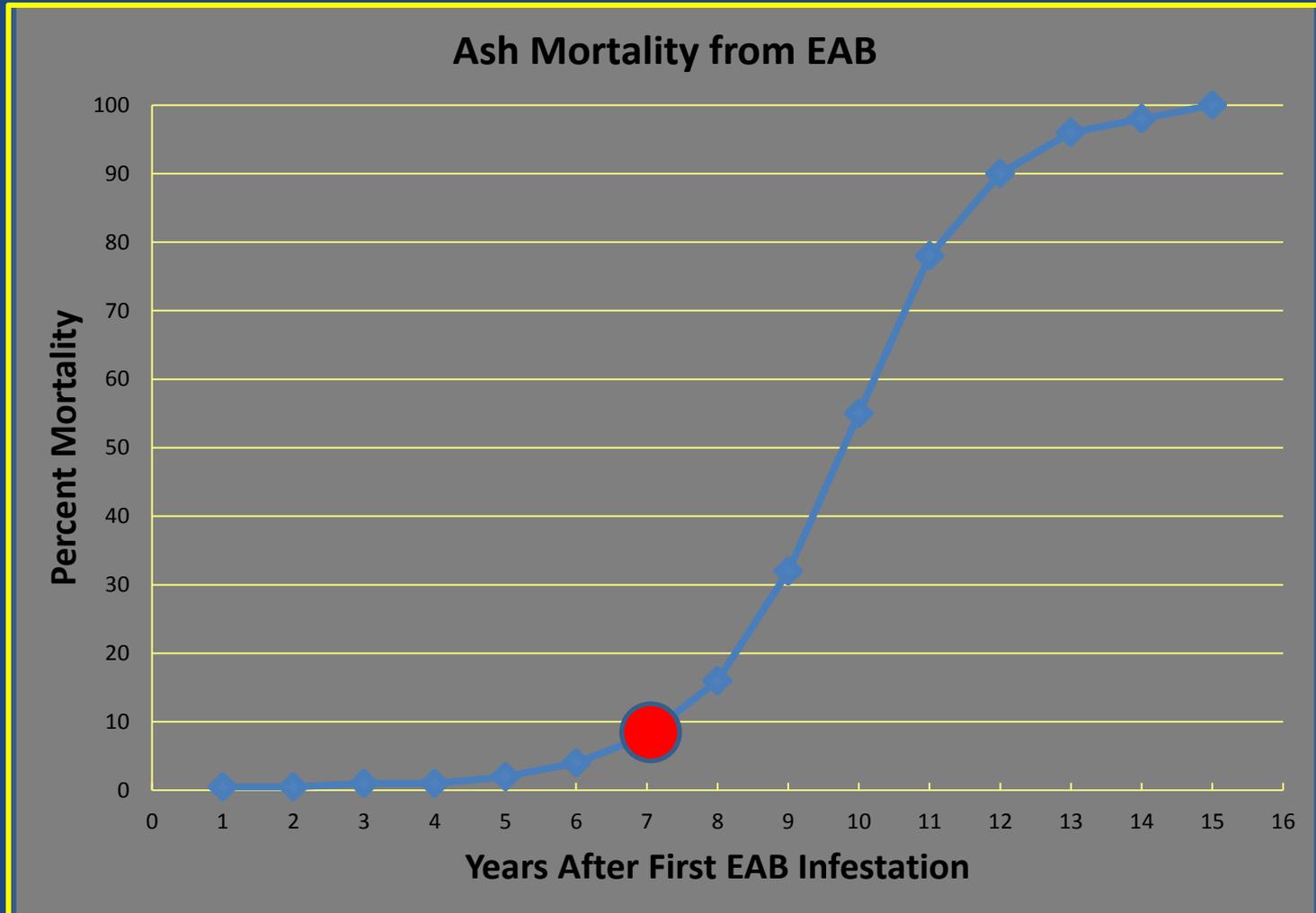
Emerald Ash Borer (EAB)

We are slowing the spread ...

- ✓ By detecting & removing infested trees



A Predictable Pattern of Losses



Based on data from Dr. Dan Herms, The Ohio State University



The State of Our Urban Forest

Emerald Ash Borer (EAB)

Ash Canopy Replacement Plan

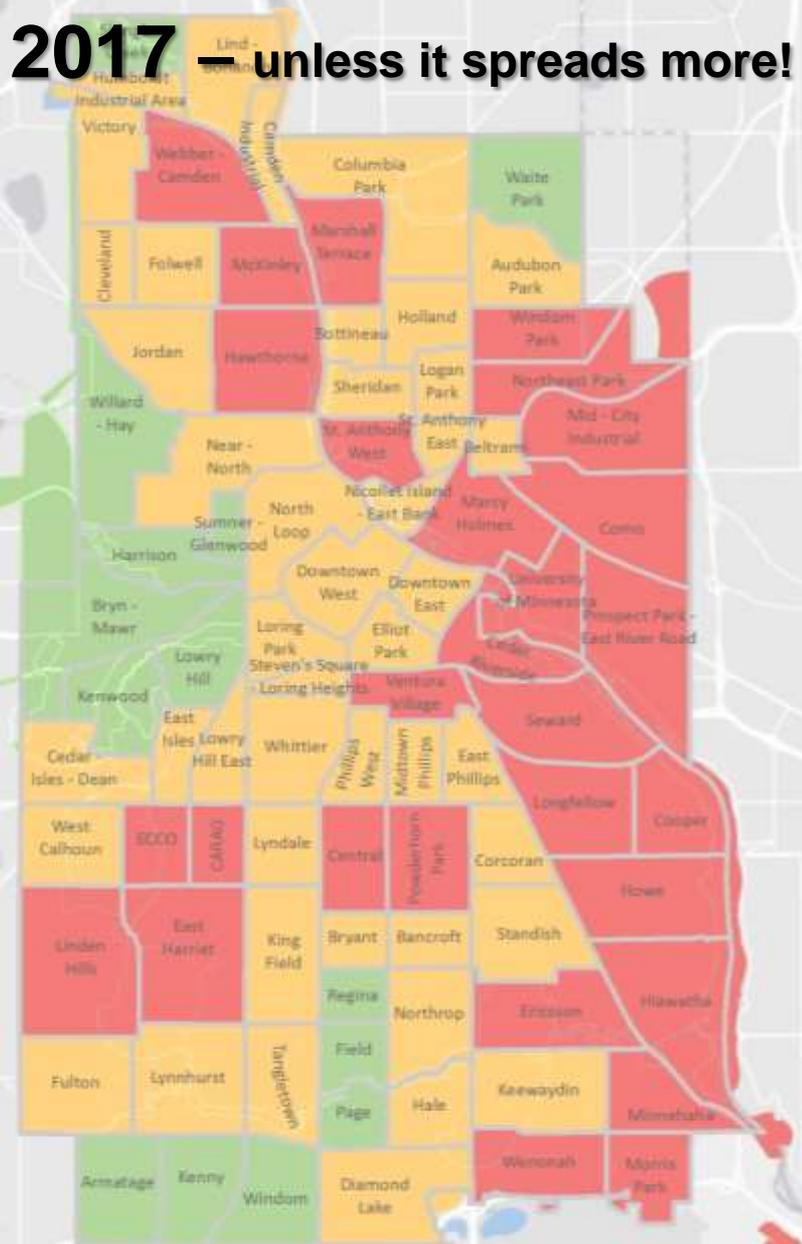
We are accelerating lasting benefits...

- ✓ By proactively removing ash & replanting
- ✓ Aiming for tree age & species diversity

EAB Informed Management

- ✓ 2016 is 1st year for increasing replacements in & near infected areas
- ✓ Three levels of priority:
 - high – infested
 - medium – nearby
 - low – other

2017 – unless it spreads more!



The State of Our Urban Forest

As we lose tree canopy we lose benefits

- **Prior to EAB we were at 31.5% (2009)**
- **Additional losses:**
 - Tornado & wind storms
 - EAB = 18% loss of cover (down to ~25% overall)
- **We need data on where we are at now**
Update the satellite tree canopy survey
- **40% canopy cover citywide recommended**
(American Forests)

An aerial photograph of Minneapolis, Minnesota, showing a dense urban landscape with numerous buildings, streets, and green spaces. The text is overlaid on the image in various colors and sizes.

The State of Our Urban Forest

How can we gain tree canopy benefits

40% BY 2040

**To achieve 40% cover we'd need
to plant over 600,000 trees in
Minneapolis in 24 years**

**= 25,000 trees per year
both public & private**

The State of Our Urban Forest

MPRB is Planting

Over 8,000 trees per year
to try to keep up

Public Tree Replacement by Removal Cause

Ash / EAB Elm / DED Other



The State of Our Urban Forest

Minneapolis Arbor Day 2016



- over 130 trees planted
- 39 different types of trees



NE Arbor Month plantings:

- 6 MPRB properties
- 300 trees
- 64 types



The State of Our Urban Forest

City Trees Program

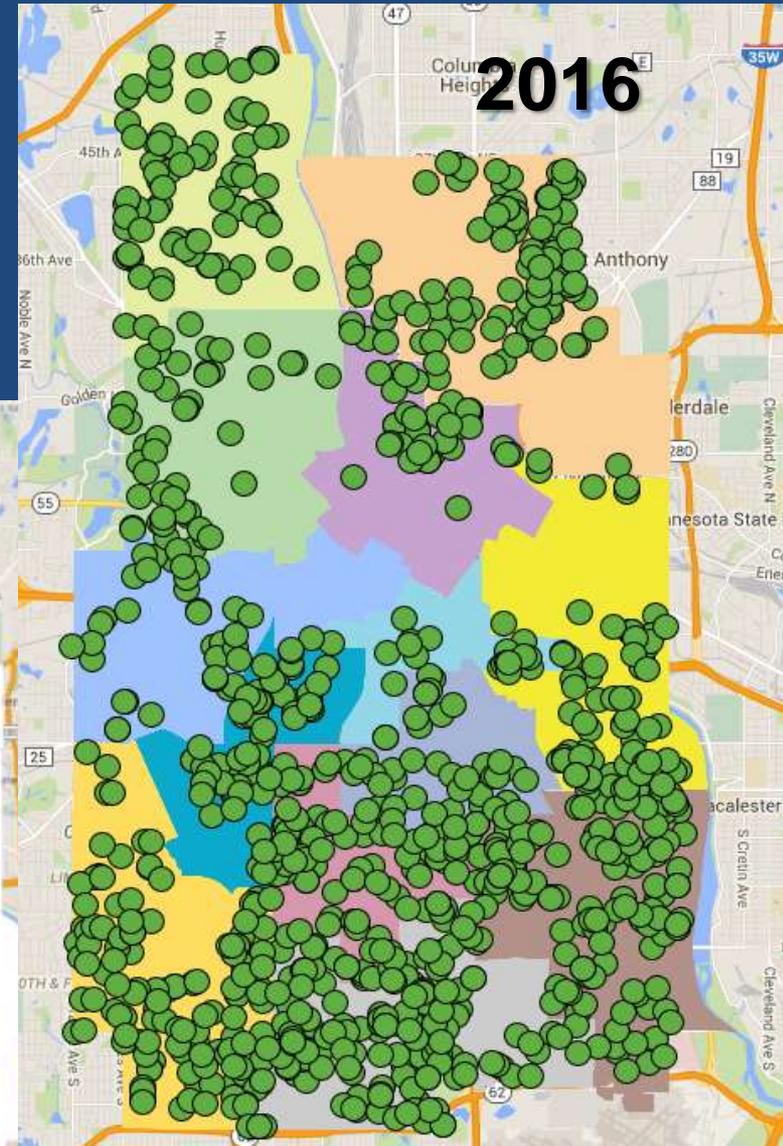
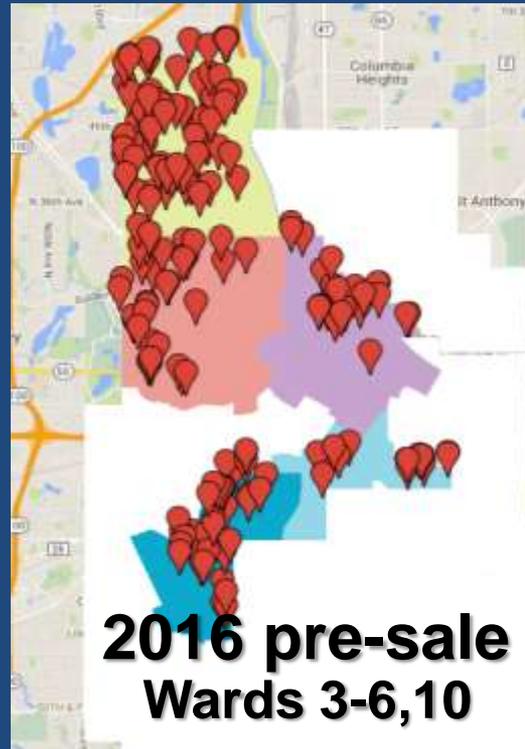
City-supported program providing economical trees to city residents

✓ 14,200 trees planted over 10 years

2016:

✓ 1,325 trees

✓ 17 species



The State of Our Urban Forest

Planted trees need to survive

**Research on survival rates
& causes is important**

**Cooperative research project has
begun on trees planted by MPRB**



The State of Our Urban Forest

Planted trees need to be strong to thrive



**Assure proper monitoring
& young-tree pruning**



A photograph of two young girls, one in a white long-sleeved shirt and blue pants, and the other in a purple t-shirt and blue jeans, kneeling on a grassy field. They are both holding white buckets and watering a young tree. The tree has a white tag on its trunk. The background shows a park with other trees and a clear blue sky.

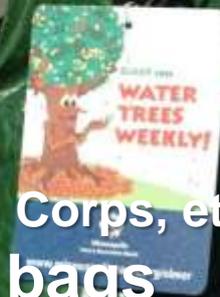
The State of Our Urban Forest
Planted trees need to survive

Watering trees is essential

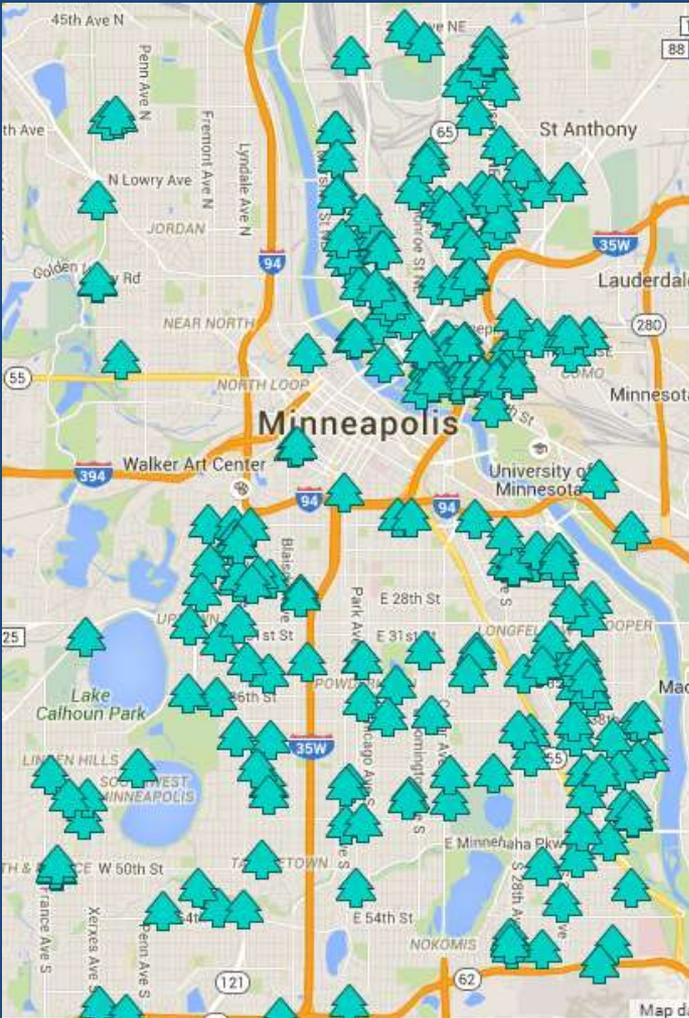
The State of Our Urban Forest

Do more to implement public tree water strategy

- ✓ increase public watering (MPRB, Fire Dept., Public Works, Conservation Corps, etc)
- ✓ evaluate the effectiveness of gator bags
- ✓ use govdelivery to email drought watering reminders to residents
- ✓ create volunteer tree steward networks to water & monitor young trees



The State of Our Urban Forest



Trees Adopted as of
3/19/2016



219 - Adopters

240 - Trees adopted



6 Brewery Sponsors

1 Coffee Shop Sponsor

Non-brewery Sponsors

- Brewery Running Series
- People for Parks
- Open Twin Cities

Events:

- Tree Trivia at Able Brewery - reached 120+ people
- Minneapolis Arbor Day

The State of Our Urban Forest

Planted trees need to survive

Use the MPRB training video annually
It only takes a few minutes!



Prevent unnecessary damage
to all trees

– so they can grow to their full potential





TREE
PROTECTION
No Digging
No Parking

URBAN FOREST POLICY

We are moving in the right direction!

BOULEVARD TREE FAILURES DURING WIND-LOADING EVENTS: JUNE 21, 2013...A CASE STUDY

A REPORT TO THE MINNEAPOLIS CITY
COUNCIL FEBRUARY 3, 2015

- 
- **Public infrastructure improvements can harm & kill boulevard trees**
 - **City directed staff to confer with Tree & Pedestrian Advisory Commissions on city policy changes**

Urban Forest Policy

The Minneapolis Urban Forest Policy provides standards, guidelines, and practices that protect, maintain, and manage the urban forest.



Urban Forest Policy

Forest Preservation Coordinator

- Required to be part of decision making
- He's doing a great job in an "acting" role

Fully fund this position!

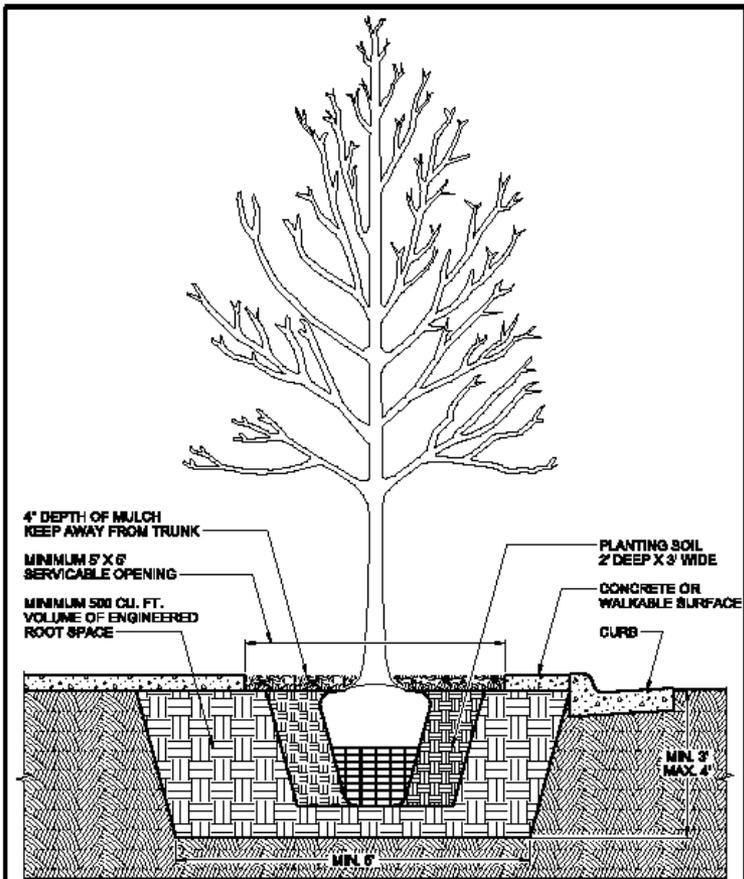


Urban Forest Policy

New Specifications

Public Works specifications now include state-of-the-art standards for trees!

Updating the Urban Forest Policy is an important accomplishment!



| | | | | |
|--|----------|---------------|-----------------------|---------------------------------------|
| | DRWG: CP | DATE: 3/20/16 | ENGINEERED ROOT SPACE | STANDARD PLATE NO. FORE-1003 |
| | APP: RCH | DATE: 3/20/16 | | |

BOULEVARD

CONSTRUCTION
DRAIN

NORTH SECTION TREE REMOVALS

- 1 COTTONWOOD
 - 1 HAWTHORN OR HACKBERRY
 - 2 HAWTHORN
 - 12 ELM
 - 20 BASSWOOD/LINDEN
 - 28 MAPLE
 - 71 OAK
 - 74 HACKBERRY
 - 190 SPRUCE
- 398 TOTAL

CONSTRUCTION
DRAIN

17 SPRUCE

16 SPRUCE

13 SPRUCE

17 SPRUCE

61 SPRUCE

74 HACKBERRY
 28 MAPLE
 20 BASSWOOD/LINDEN
 71 OAK
 1 COTTONWOOD
 12 ELM

2 SPRUCE, 1 HACKBERRY OR HAWTHORN

9 SPRUCE

8 SPRUCE

13 SPRUCE

14 SPRUCE

21 SPRUCE

LYNDALE AVENUE S

CONSTRUCTION
DRAIN

PROJECT PLANS

Are we doing it right?



Project Plans

Missed opportunities

Major public projects in Minneapolis are going ahead with unnecessary loss of healthy trees

A photograph showing a worker in safety gear (hard hat, high-visibility vest, chaps) using a chainsaw to cut a large log. The scene is outdoors, likely at a construction or utility site, with other logs and equipment visible in the background.

Project Plans

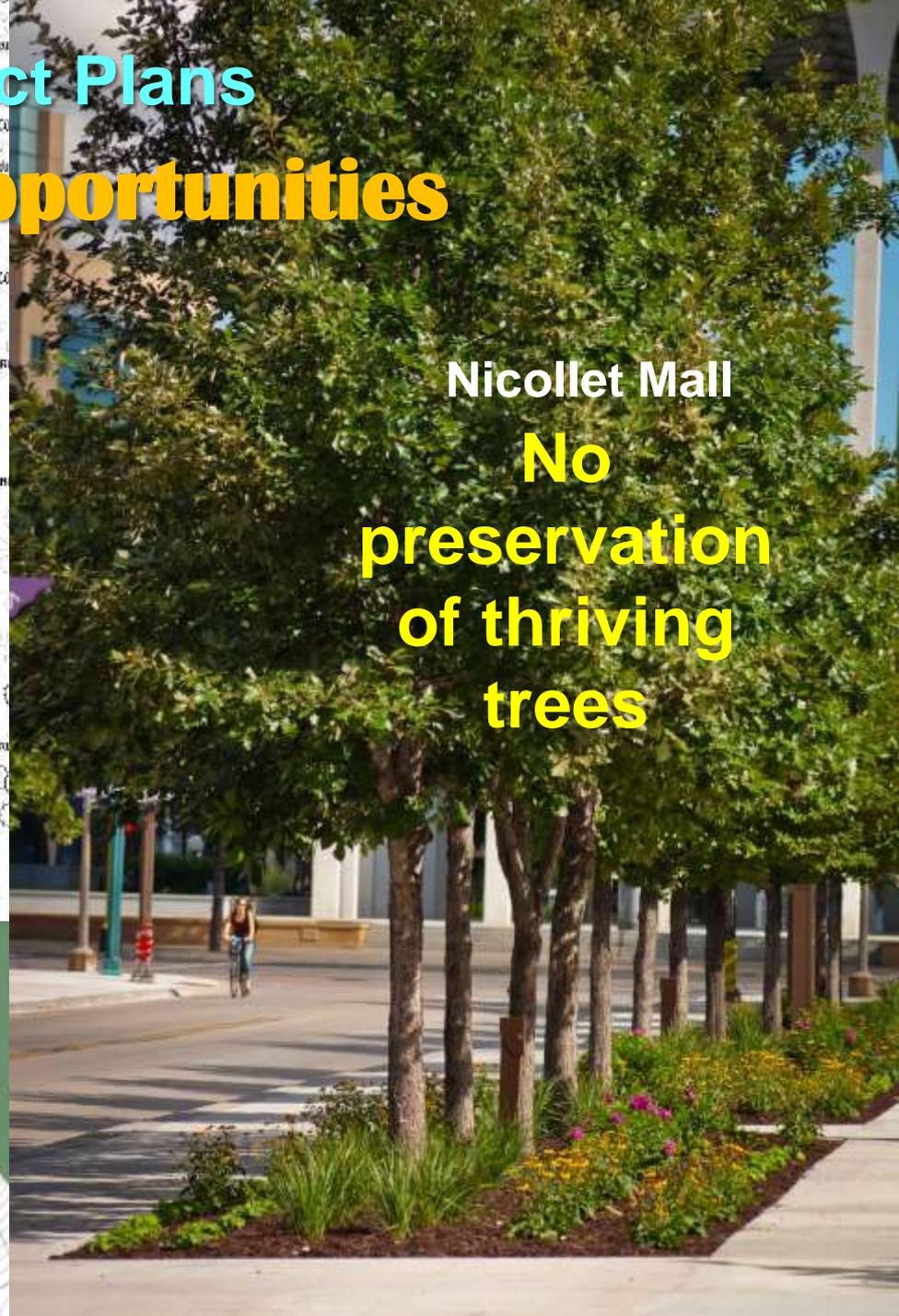
Missed opportunities

Walker Art Center Sculpture Garden

400 trees removed!

Wirth Adventure & Welcome Center

300 trees to be removed including old oak woodland



Nicollet Mall

No preservation of thriving trees

RECOMMENDATIONS

A photograph of a residential street lined with large, mature trees. The street is paved and has several cars parked along the side. The trees are lush green and cast shadows on the road. The word "RECOMMENDATIONS" is overlaid in a yellow, stylized font at the top of the image.

Minneapolis Tree Advisory Commission 2016 Recommendations

- ✓ Save existing healthy trees
 - Stress tree protection in Requests for Proposals for public projects *MPRB&City
 - Require tree protection information in public decision-making *MPRB&City
 - Require every project to show how it saves the most healthy trees *MPRB&City
 - Require Tree Protection Plans in Site Plan Review processes *City
- ✓ Fund full-time Forest Preservation Coordinator position
- ✓ Involve MTAC early in projects that may impact trees
 - Appoint Tree Commission rep. on key Citizen Advisory Committees *MPRB
 - Consult with Tree Commission at initiation of city-sponsored projects *City
- ✓ Guarantee care of public trees
 - Develop a reliable plan to water newly planted trees *MPRB&City
 - Evaluate the effectiveness of gator bags *MPRB
 - Train & direct park staff to keep mowers & weed whips away from trees *MPRB
- ✓ Increase tree canopy cover & tree planting
 - Expand City Trees Program *City
 - Monitor canopy cover by updating the Satellite Tree Canopy Study *City

Minneapolis Tree Advisory Commission

THANK YOU

Any questions?



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