

Minneapolis Tree Advisory Commission ANNUAL REPORT



Minneapolis Tree
Advisory
Commission

Presented July 9, 2007

Minneapolis – a long tradition of tree care

Tree City USA since 1979

Minneapolis Urban Forest Policy

Adopted in March 2004 by the City Council

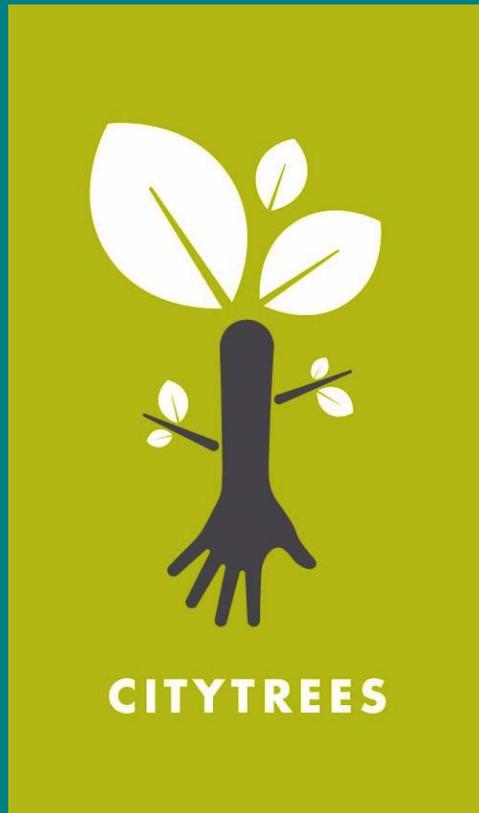


Minneapolis Park & Recreation Board

Minneapolis Tree Advisory Commission

Created in October 2005

by the Minneapolis Park & Recreation Board



MISSION:
To enhance the
Minneapolis
urban forest &
improve its long
term health.



Minneapolis lost
10,000 elm trees
to Dutch elm disease in 2004 and
could lose that many again this year.

YOU can help

- **Preserve our elms.** Work with a qualified arborist to inject your healthy elms with a preventive fungicide. The average cost is \$300 per tree, every two to three years. Neighbors can band together for a group discount.
- **Remove a sick elm from your yard ASAP** — it is contagious. If your elm is diseased and marked for removal, have it removed right away. Do not store elm firewood in your woodpile unless all of the bark has been removed.
- **Plant a tree in your yard.** Before planting a tree on your boulevard, call the Minneapolis Park & Recreation Board at 612-370-4000 for a free permit.

 **Minneapolis
Tree Advisory Commission**

Minneapolis Tree Advisory Commission's initial goals:

- coordinate issues related to trees across City jurisdictions
- evaluate issues related to trees and report annually to MPRB and City Council
- coordinate fiscal resources and explore new ways to acquire funds to increase support for urban forest establishment & management



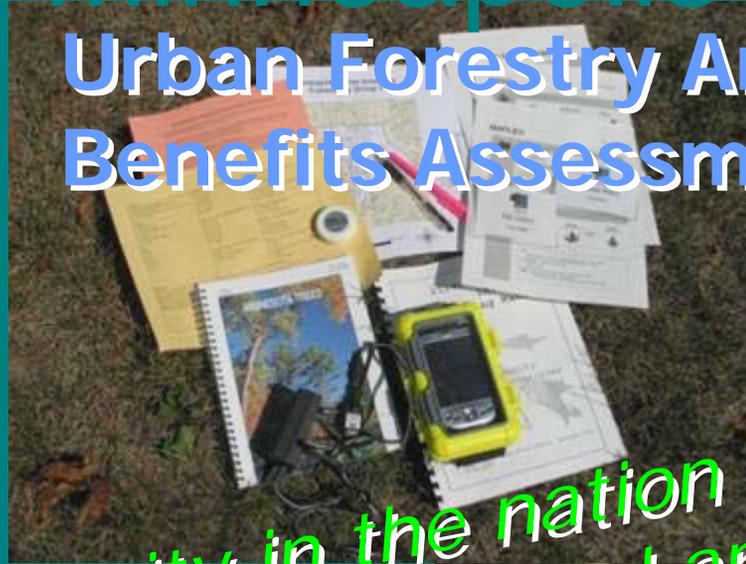
Trees are the “Swiss army knives” of environmental benefits

- Minneapolis’ nearly 1 million trees:
 - Reduce heating and cooling costs
 - Reduce storm-water runoff
 - Increase property values
 - Improve air quality
 - Slow global warming
- Trees are part of the City’s infrastructure





Urban Forestry Analysis & Benefits Assessment Software



The first city in the nation to test the data collection and analysis applications of the i-Tree software suite.



The **Benefits** of the Urban Forest

Each year Minneapolis street trees provide:

- \$6.8 million in energy savings
- \$9.1 million in reduced storm water runoff
- \$7.1 million increased property value
- Plus improvements to air quality



\$24.9 million TOTAL
value each year!





Minneapolis Urban Forest Summary



Number of Trees

979,000

Tree Cover

26.4%

Top 3 Species

Green Ash, Amer. Elm, Boxelder

% of Population <6" Dia.

47.3%

Pollution Removal

423 tons/year (\$1.9 million/year)

Carbon Storage

250,000 tons (\$4.6 million)

Carbon Sequestration

8,900 tons/year (\$164,000/year)

Building Energy Savings

\$216,000/year

Avoidance Carbon Emissions

\$16,000

Structural (Appraised) Values

\$756 million 

MTAC's Results in 2006

- Indicators for urban forest included in Minneapolis Sustainability Initiative
- Urban forest component included in MPRB Comprehensive Plan
- City web page for urban forestry:
 - www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/environment/urbantreecanopy.asp
- Fire Dept agreement to help water trees
- “Beat the Beetle” campaign



In 2006, Minneapolis hosted:

- International Society of Arboriculture
 - 3,000 arborists from around the world
- Citizens Tree Academy
- Tree-climbing Championship
- Nat'l Urban & Community Forestry Advisory Council
- Metropolitan Tree Improvement Alliance



Greening in 2006

3,638 trees planted in
parks, boulevards

1,200 trees distributed
to residents –
CityTrees



Official Minneapolis Arbor Day - 2006

66 trees at Farview park with students from Nellie Stone Johnson school and community volunteers (500)



Greening in 2007

1,500 trees for private yards

- “Leave your Legacy” program
- May 19, 20, 21, 22

3,600 trees in parks and boulevards



Greening in 2007

Minneapolis Arbor Day –
200 trees @ Powderhorn Park



Minneapolis has room for 16,000 more public trees



Goals:

- plant 2 trees for every tree lost
- Net gain of tree canopy by 2015

The Impacts of Dutch Elm Disease

- In 2004: 10,260 elms
- In 2005: 6,179 elms
- In 2006: 3,350 elms



**\$6.84 million in annual benefits
GONE FOREVER**



The Impacts of Dutch Elm Disease

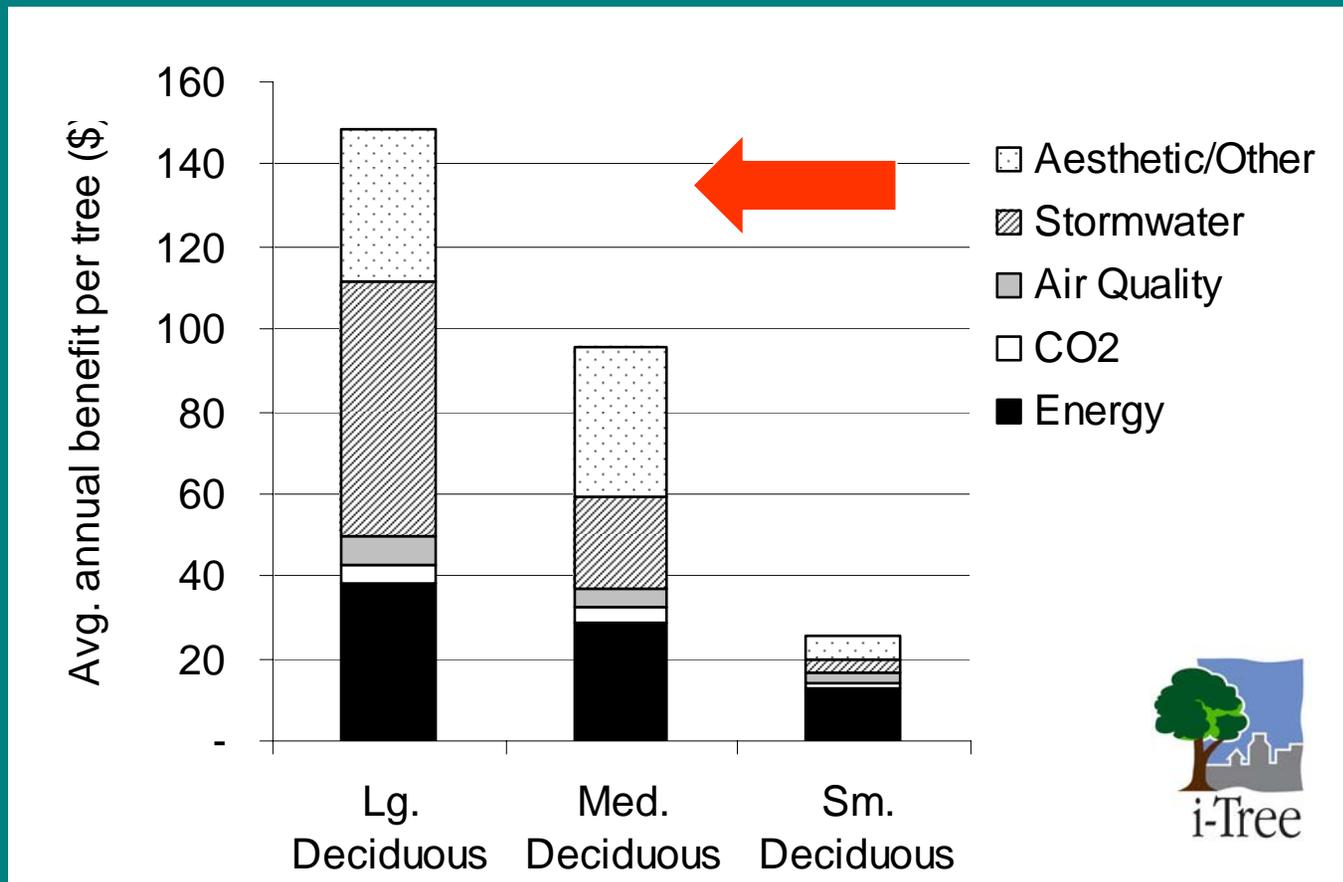
**Only 10% of Minneapolis street trees are elms.
But they generate 30% of tree benefits.**



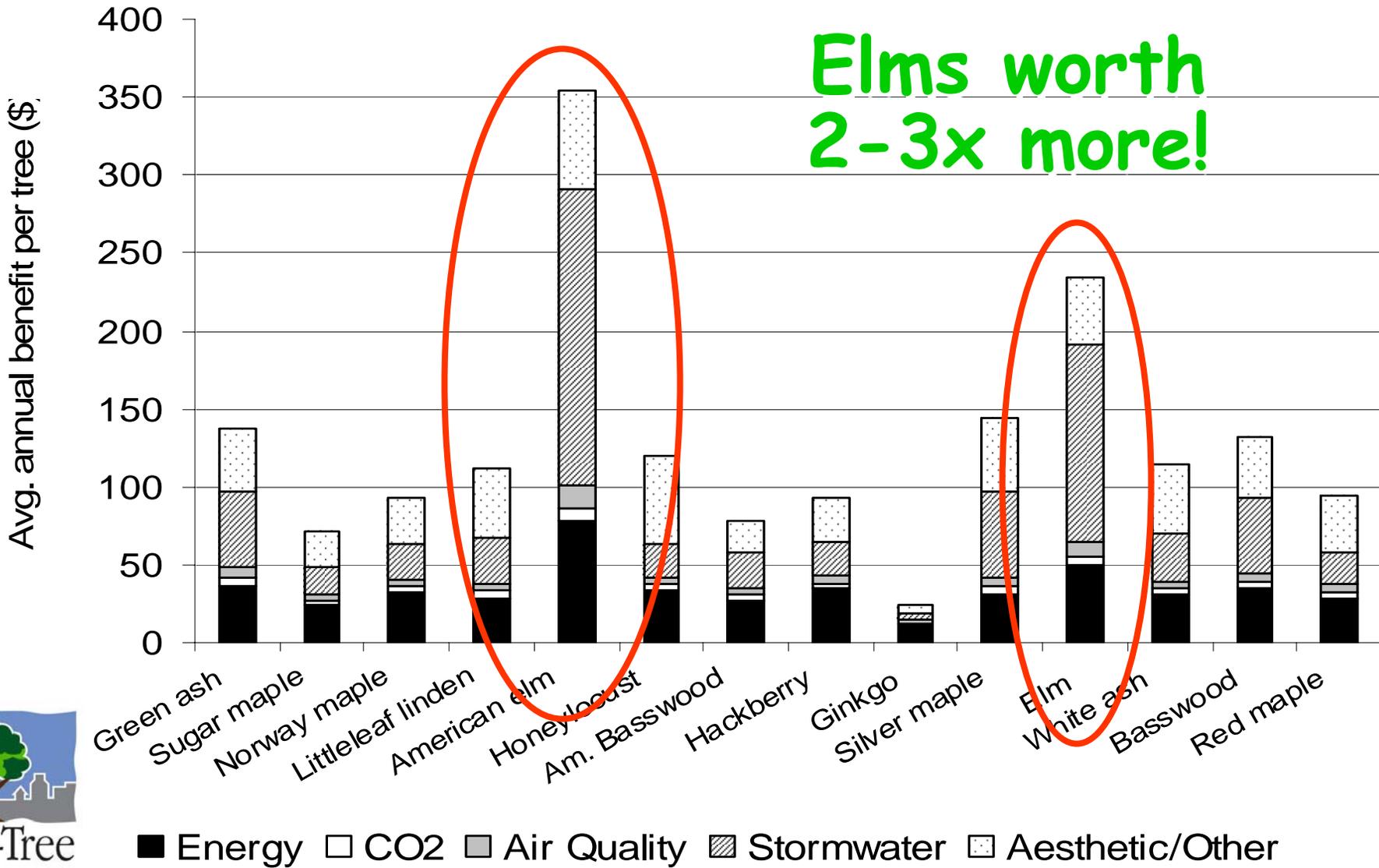
The Impacts—why elms matter

LARGE TREES

= MOST BANG FOR BUCK



The Impacts—why elms matter



Stump-removal Backlog

- 2,400 stumps removed in 2006
- Cost: an extra \$300,000/year
 - MPRB's budget is usually \$200,000
- Backlog: 5,500 stumps
- Need: \$350,000 to \$450,000/year



Major Threats to the Urban Forest

Many Minneapolis trees are green ash!

Percentage by Tree Species



“Beat the Beetle” - Preparing for Emerald Ash Borer

- MPRB has ceased planting ash
 - 22% of total tree canopy
- MPRB ordinances to be updated
- Press packets/educational materials
 - U.S. Forest Service funds
- “Trap trees” monitored
- Firewood – potential restrictions



EAB TRAP TREE

Other causes of tree loss:

- Hazard trees
- Soil compaction
- De-icing salt
- Construction damage
- Root impacts
- Over-mature trees



To provide **Benefits ...**

Each **PUBLIC UTILITY** requires ongoing public investments



60% of Minneapolis street trees currently need some maintenance

MPRB is creating a tree inventory

- Inventory will help manage tree maintenance and planting
- GIS layer for MPRB & City departments
- Aerial images provide baselines to track tree canopy



MPRB Budget Summary

2005 Budget	2006 Budget	2007 Budget
\$8,300,798	\$9,206,044 (includes \$200,000 in Mayor's budget)	\$9,532,427
2,800 public trees planted	3,600+ public trees planted	3,600+ public trees planted

MTAC recommends:

- ✓ Adopt streetscape standards, specs
Policy – alternatives to tree grates
- ✓ Incentives for developers
- ✓ Amend ordinance re: arborist qualifications
- ✓ Fund aerial imagery
- ✓ Include in Comp Plan



Minneapolis Tree Advisory
Commission

RECOMMENDATIONS



The Benefits of the Urban Forest

The trees of Minneapolis are THE growing capital asset that benefits everyone in the City.

