



## MINNEAPOLIS TREE ADVISORY COMMISSION

### RECOMMENDATIONS

to

**Health, Energy and Environment Committee  
of the Minneapolis City Council**

**April 3, 2006**

To protect and enhance the “public utility” of our Minneapolis urban forest, and to optimize the economic benefit that Minneapolis trees provide, the Minneapolis Tree Advisory Commission recommends that the Minneapolis City Council undertake the following key strategies in 2006:

#### A. **Policy and Coordination across Jurisdictions**

1. Adopt urban forestry standards into city policy, including:
  - a. Incentives for developers to implement appropriate public and private tree-planting
  - b. Streetscape standards and specifications (e.g., approved alternatives to tree grates in order to benefit trees and enhance the City’s walkability) and
  - c. Private arborist qualifications in order to be eligible for a Minneapolis Tree-servicing License (Chapter 347 of the Minneapolis Code).
2. Integrate urban forestry fully into the City’s 2008 Comprehensive Plan
  - a. Acknowledge the urban forest as an integral part of the public infrastructure and as a capital investment
  - b. Coordinate the City of Minneapolis Comprehensive plan with the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board’s Comprehensive Plan (the latter of which is currently being developed)
3. Encourage and cooperate with the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board (MPRB) to institute an Emergency Storm-response Plan that coordinates prevention, response, and mitigation when storms strike our

City's trees and assigns responsibilities among City departments and the MPRB.

4. Initiate a 50-year Minneapolis Vision and Plan which envisions the future opportunities, threats, and challenges for the City, including the city's urban ecosystem, and charts a course for cooperative public-private action to achieve this vision.

## **B. Outreach and Education**

1. Support the launch of the Minneapolis Urban Forest Stewardship Campaign aimed at residents, neighborhood groups, and property owners, who are responsible for the privately owned trees, which comprise the largest part of the City's urban forest. Support the campaign through strategies including:
  - a. Inform constituents about tree-related events and public-participation opportunities, such as the Citizen Tree Academy that will be held in Loring Park on July 28, 2006, as part of the International Society of Arboriculture convention, which will bring over 3,000 tree professionals to the Minneapolis Convention Center in late July.
  - b. Encourage involvement in the City-sponsored "1,000 Trees Program," a matching-grant program that is offering 1,000 trees to Minneapolis residents for planting in their yards this Spring. The purpose of this initiative is to help recover from recent losses to Dutch elm disease and storms.
  - c. Utilize cable-access television to publicize the Urban Forest Stewardship campaign, in cooperation with the MPRB, the Committee on Urban Environment, and the Minneapolis Tree Advisory Commission.
2. Enhance 311 for trees
  - a. Assure that the 311 system can assist callers in accessing information about trees (e.g., the MPRB's web pages on Trees and Forestry and [www.mntrees.org](http://www.mntrees.org)).

## **C. Funding**

1. Support the state bonding requests that seek funds to assist communities statewide to protect and replant their community trees.
  - a. House File 1564 and Senate File 1161 each seek \$30 million.

**b.** Senate File 3475 (bonding bill) allocates \$5 for replacement of shade trees lost to diseases or tree pests.

**2.** Continue funding support for tree planting and reforestation:

**a.** A Sustainability Goal for the City is to plant at least 3,500 trees per year. The 2006 city budget included \$300,000 for tree planting on both public and private property.