

Tree Inventory to start on Village Owned Public Property

The Village of Homer Glen will begin to inventory trees on Village owned public property and public right-of-ways (parkways) on Tuesday, September 3, 2013. The data collection for the tree inventory is estimated to conclude in November of this year.

The goal is to identify trees and future planting locations. This will enable the Village to assess hazardous situations, including trees that are unsafe, diseased or infested with harmful insects, such as the Emerald Ash Borer (EAB). In addition, The tree inventory will be used to update the Village's EAB Management Plan and enable the Village to increase the diversity and coverage of its forest canopy, which in turn will help reduce runoff and erosion, filter contaminants, improve air quality, and beautify the Village.

In July, the Village Board approved a contract to hire Natural Path Urban Forestry Consultants to record the location, species, diameter at breast height, condition, and maintenance needs of all trees on Village owned public property and public right-of-ways (parkways). The data collected will be used to provide the Village with an assessment report.

Personnel conducting the inventory will wear orange t-shirts or vests and carry identification. Only trees on Village owned public properties and public right-of-ways (parkways) will be inventoried.

Volunteers are being sought to help with the data collection. Interested individuals should contact Sue Steilen at 708-301-0632. A training session to learn how to identify species and record measurements will be held on Saturday, September 21, at the Village Hall, 14917 S. Founders Crossing, Homer Glen, and IL 60491.

The tree inventory is funded through a matching grant from the US Forest Service through the Urban and Community Forestry and the Forest Health Cooperative Programs and administered by the Metropolitan Mayors Caucus.

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