



AGENDA

Parks, Recreation and Environmental Commission (PREC)

In Person/Electronic Meeting

New Brighton City Hall; 803 Old Hwy 8 NW

Upper Level Conference Room

December 7, 6:30 p.m.

- **Attend the meeting in Person:** Members of the Parks, Recreation and Environmental Commission and members of the public may attend the meeting in person. Attendees are required to wear masks and comply with social distancing parameters regardless of vaccination status.
- **Watch the meeting electronically:** To observe the meeting electronically, visit the City website or tune into CTV Channel 8023 (CenturyLink) or Channel 16 (Comcast).
- **Join the meeting electronically:** Members of the Parks, Recreation and Environmental Commission may attend the meeting remotely pursuant to MN Statutes 13D.021. If you need to interact with our officials or staff but are not comfortable attending the meeting in person, please click on the following link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89862402361?pwd=MWtPelRNTGt2RmR2TktwSkM0R1VHdz09> (no app needed) or use your Zoom app to join by entering: Meeting ID: 898 6240 2361 and Passcode: 867530.

I. Call to Order

II. Roll Call

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Chair Julia O'Rourke | <input type="checkbox"/> Commissioner Abe McEathron |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Vice-Chair Michael Spooner | <input type="checkbox"/> Commissioner Laura Sokol-Kraft |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commissioner Pauline Alfors | <input type="checkbox"/> Commissioner Randell Wyatt |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commissioner Gary Bank | <input type="checkbox"/> Student Commissioner Zoey Tenenbaum |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commissioner Maren Hawkins | <input type="checkbox"/> City Staff Members |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commissioner Kristin Hicks | |

III. Approval of Schedule/Agenda

IV. Approval of the November 2, 2022 Minutes

V. Business Items

- Forestry Update – Jennifer Fink, Director of Parks and Recreation
- Splash Pad Design Update – Jennifer Fink, Director of Parks and Recreation

VI. Announcements

- City Council Report – Emily Dunsworth, City Councilmember
- PREC Chair Updates – Julia O'Rourke, Chair
- Department Happenings and Upcoming Events – City Staff


VII. Adjournment

Forestry and Emerald Ash Borer Update

Jim Veiman, City Forester
Jennifer Fink, Director of Parks and Recreation



Forestry Program Elements

- Tree City USA
 - Arbor Day Celebration and Planting Event
 - Missouri Gravel Bed & Tree Planting
 - Buckthorn Removal Program
 - Park/City Property and Boulevard Tree Trimming
 - Tree Removals
 - Nuisance Tree Program (Dutch Elm, Oak Wilt and Emerald Ash Borer)
 - Disease Tree Survey
 - Other Projects
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Tree City USA

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- Trees help absorb the sounds of traffic in urban areas by 40%.
- Neighborhoods with trees are seven to nine degrees cooler than those without.
- Trees reduce energy costs up to 25% by shading buildings and protecting them from winter winds.
- Homes with trees have higher property values. (Up to 20%!)
- Green space plays a major role in improving mental and physical health.
- Planting and maintaining trees absorbs carbon dioxide in the atmosphere, mitigating the effects of climate change. For example:
 - Each mature ash tree intercepts 2,216 gallons of stormwater, reducing soil erosion and pollution, and eliminates 1,011 pounds of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere per year, decreasing the greenhouse gases that contribute to climate change



Tree City USA Requirements

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- Tree Care Ordinance - *tree care ordinance must be in effect 24/7/365. In other words, the policies for tree planting, care, and removal of trees codified in the ordinance must be continuous, not triggered by an event like landscaping requirements or the land development process.*
- Community Forestry program with a minimum annual budget of at least \$2 per capita – *New Brighton Population of 23,854x2 = \$47,708. Forestry budget exceeds that.*
- Arbor Day observance and proclamation – *An effective program for community trees would not be complete without an annual Arbor Day ceremony. Citizens join together to celebrate the benefits of community trees and the work accomplished to plant and maintain them.*



Previous Arbor Day Celebrations



Bel Air Elementary
4th grade class and
other volunteers.



Tree Plantings

- Boulevard and City-owned property tree planting
- Missouri Gravel Bed for tree plantings
 - Gravel beds allow bare root stock obtained in the spring to be planted in the throughout the growing season and into the fall.
 - Communities can plant less expensive trees when they have the time and resources.



Missouri Gravel Bed Construction



Planting trees in gravelbed for the Summer to enhance root growth.



Toolcat backfilling trees into gravelbed

Tree Planting Activities



Volunteers planting at Pike Lake Trail



Toolcat auguring hole for planting



Newly planted boulevard tree



Scout planting of swamp white oaks at
north Hansen Park.
Other projects were at Veterans and
Driftwood Park

Buckthorn

- Buckthorn is an invasive and difficult plant to manage. The City and its residents (particularly one resident called “Buckthorn Dave”) have put a lot of time and energy into buckthorn removal. You can see the positive effects of these efforts at Hansen Park, but buckthorn still persists throughout the City.
- The most effective way of removing buckthorn is to pull the plant from the ground thus removing stump and roots preventing the re-sprouting of new buckthorn.
- At times, volunteer groups have visited Hidden Oaks Park and removed buckthorn from the woods. These groups averaged in size of approximately 10 people.
- At Driftwood Park a scout project included removing two truckloads of buckthorn and wood debris from the park.
- The City of New Brighton pre COVID, held free workshops that provided information to help residents learn techniques to properly remove buckthorn and improve the health of area woods.



Jim showing residents how to operate the Buckthorn Puller.

Before



After



Buckthorn removal from woods in Brightwood Hills Golf Course



Before



After

Who could forget the GOATS?

- We will see this spring – what it looks like, as well as consider applying for the same noxious weed grant at Creekview Park.
- There is a lot of Buckthorn there. It will take years for it to be fully controlled.



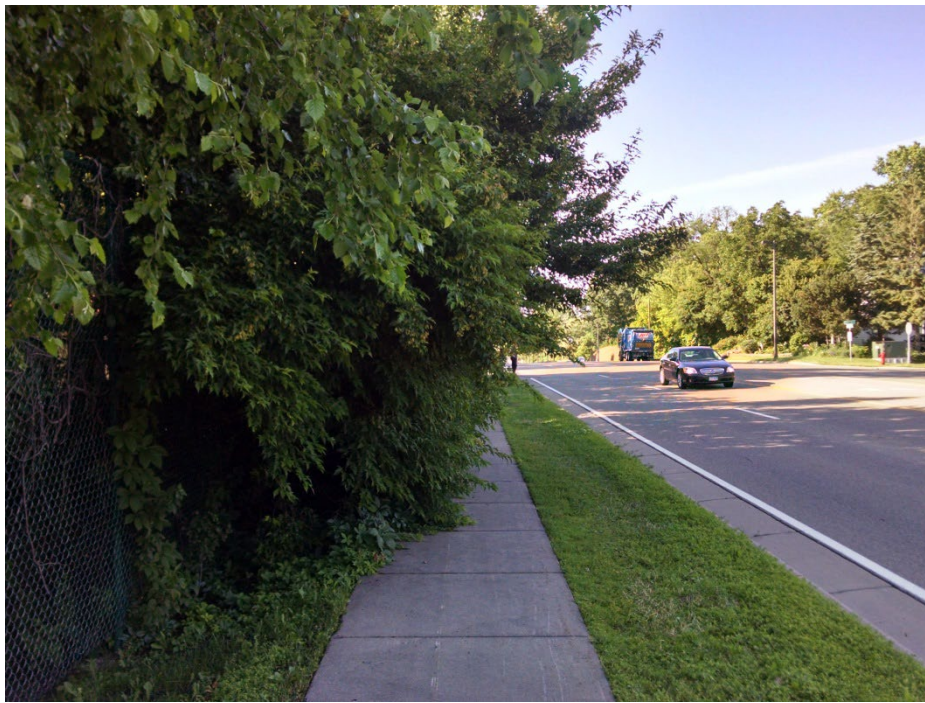
Tree Trimming

- In the past, during winter months, park maintenance and forestry crew when not undertaking park maintenance duties, trim trees throughout the city.
- They also spend time clearing alley ways, right of way, street signs and sidewalks.
- However, due to the explosion in EAB, this has not happened since 2018 on a regular or routine basis.









Trimming bushes and trees back from sidewalk along Silver Lake Road.



Which brings us to diseased tree management!

- Emerald Ash Borer
- Dutch Elm Disease
- Oak Wilt
- Diseased, dangerous and dead trees management (City Code, Chapter 17, Article 2)
 - The duties of the Forester shall be to coordinate all activities of the City relating to the control and prevention of oak wilt, Dutch elm disease and emerald ash borer. The Forester may recommend to the City Manager and City Council the details of a program for the control of oak wilt, Dutch elm disease and emerald ash borer. The Forester shall perform the duties of such a program as adopted by the City Council.

Ash Trees

- There are nearly 1 billion of these deciduous trees across Minnesota, and they make up 20 percent of the canopies in our cities.
- Since 2009, an invasive beetle called Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) has been chewing through the state's ash population, killing the trees by disrupting their ability to transport water and nutrients. Once an ash tree becomes infested by EAB, it has an almost zero percent chance of surviving more than three years unless protected prior to infestation.

In the early 1980s, the State funded the equivalent of \$290 million dollars to combat Dutch elm disease, affecting 140 million elm trees.

Today, Minnesota faces EAB impact to more than 1 billion ash trees.

What does it look like to have an EAB Infested Community?

A Toledo street before and after EAB



June 2006



August 2009

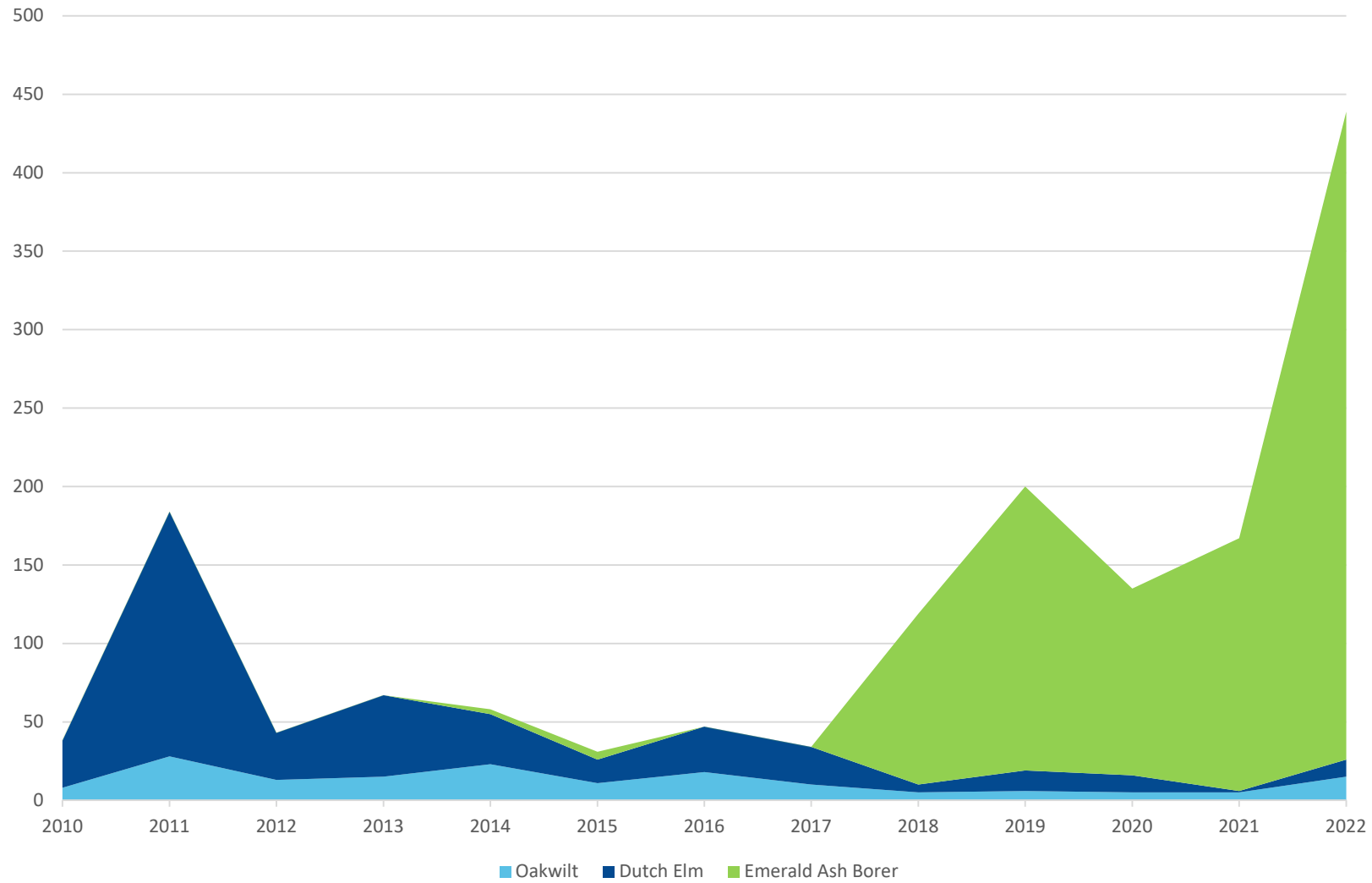
Ash tree with EAB in New Brighton



EAB galleries located



Disease Tree Survey



Process Piece

- Forester drives the entire city, and surveys the city for disease and infestations.
- Identify trees that look like they are 50% or less effected by EAB, with notification (door hanger) to treat or remove.
- Identify trees that have Dutch Elm, Oak Wilt, or that are more than 50% effected by EAB, and tag them for removal. (Orange ring and numbered)
 - Homeowners are notified via certified mail of the requirement to remove the tree within 30 days.
 - Must use a licensed tree contractor or remove themselves
 - Stump removed or debarked
 - If they don't remove within the time frame, the City will remove the tree, for a bid cost + 20% administrative cost (administrative cost is capped at \$500)


Potential Things to Consider with Trees and Removals

- Trees increase the value of homes, but they are also an amenity that has a large maintenance cost
- It is a large piece of property ownership cost
- The City has done a lot of communication around treatment and removal for EAB, however, it is never enough.
 - Social Media
 - Newsletters (Parks and Citywide)
- Some properties have one tree, some properties have 20+.
 - Cost of tree removal can range from \$800 for a simple, easy to access, large tree to \$3,000-\$5,000 for a tree that has issues with access (requiring a crane, close to a structure, or a decayed and dangerous tree escalates the price exponentially)
- So sometimes someone can be hit with a \$2,000 bill that you don't expect, or \$18,000, if you didn't treat your trees.

How does that work?

- If the City does coordinate the removal – it gets billed to the property.
- If they do not pay it within six months, the bill is assessed to the property.
- They then have the one year to pay it through their mortgage or through the property tax payments.
- This is different than street replacement assessment
 - There is the ability to assess to the property
 - 10 year term, typically 3% interest
 - Assessments range from \$1,100-\$3,000.

Feedback on Current Process

- What do other Cities do?
 - Varies – Everything from do nothing to similar practices, or only in high visibility areas
 - Should the City limit how many trees we remove?
 - What's the implications? (Trees eventually die and will fall under the dangerous tree piece of the ordinance)
 - Legal Liability – Consulted with attorneys
 - Should the City offer the opportunity to finance removals?
 - Where do we create the funding pool to operate the ten years of funding?
 - We have gotten \$100,000 in grant funding from the DNR to assist in removals and plantings. BUT, it needs to be on City property or in the right of way.
 - We have included in our legislative priorities the idea of direct assistance to low income homeowners.
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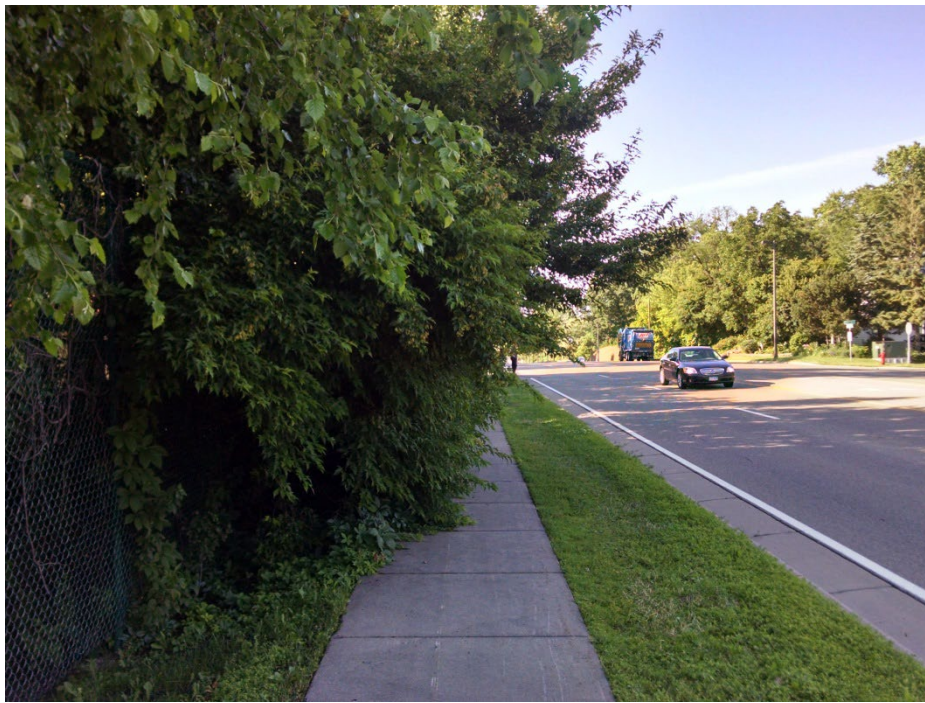


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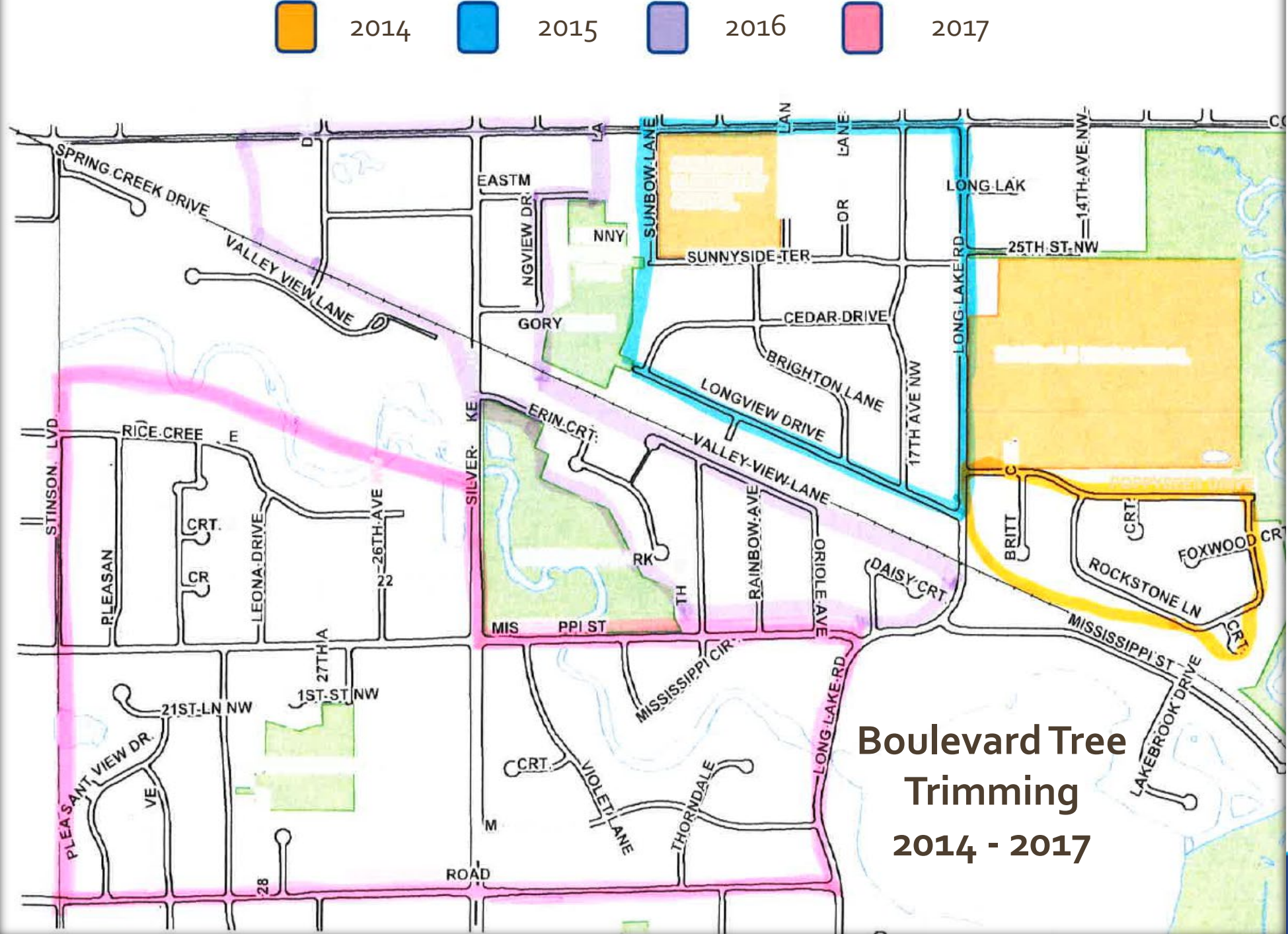






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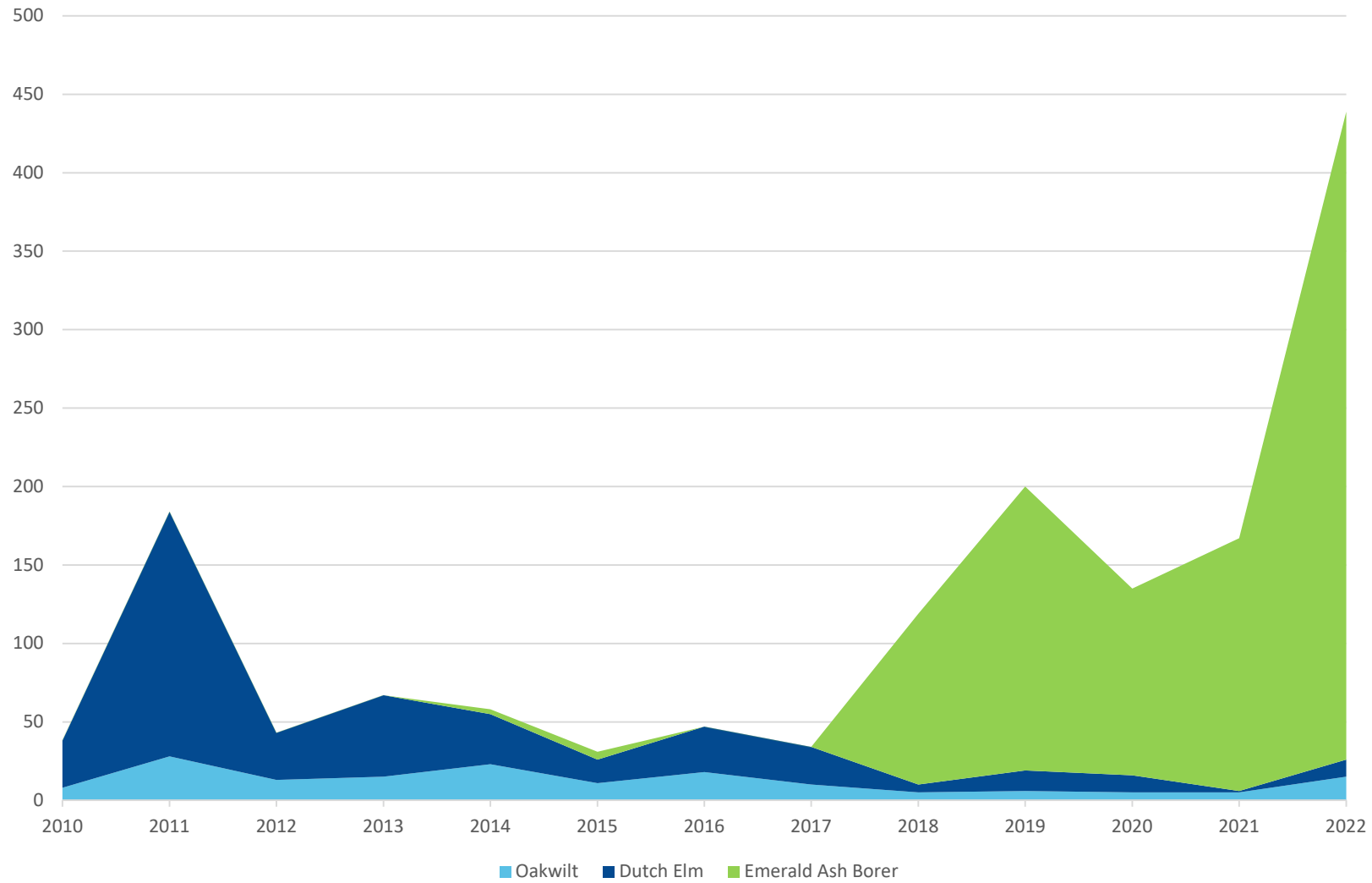


New Brighton – Planned Ahead!

| Year | Number of ash trees treated | Total cost funded by Community Reinvestment Fund |
|------|-----------------------------|--|
| 2010 | 753 | \$74,833 |
| 2011 | 0 | \$16,434 |
| 2012 | 312 (over 18") | \$44,905 |
| 2013 | 370 (under 18") | \$0 |
| 2014 | 0 | \$0 |
| 2015 | 312 (over 18") | \$30,600 |
| 2016 | 234 (under 18") | \$33,500 |
| 2017 | 0 | \$0 |

(Treatments after 2017 were funded from the general fund, and discontinued after the 2020 budget year.)

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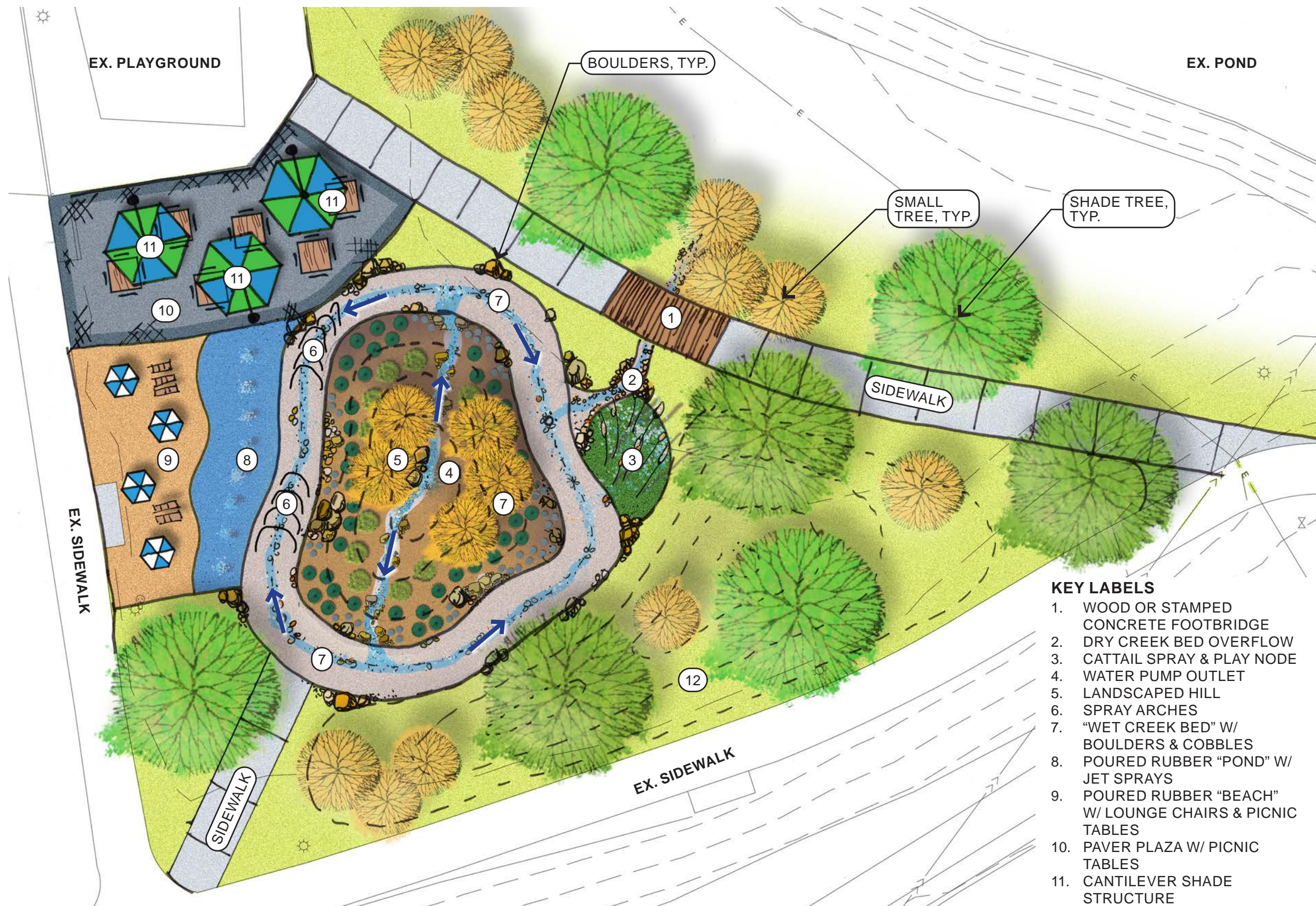
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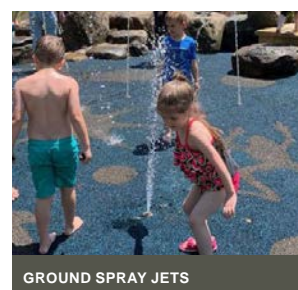
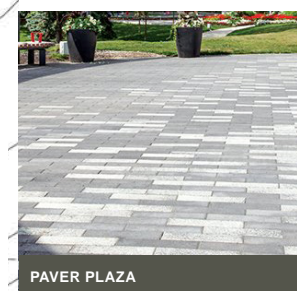
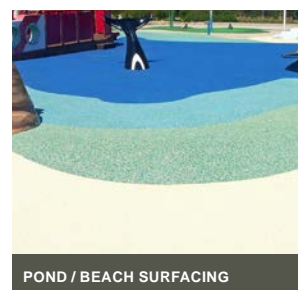
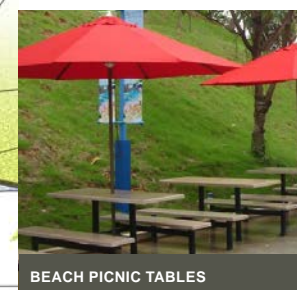
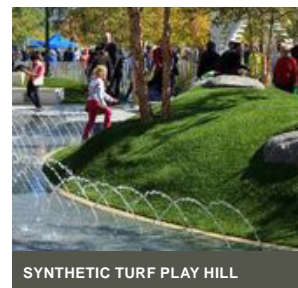
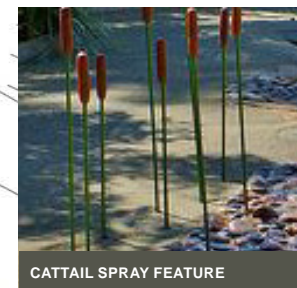
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KEY LABELS

1. WOOD OR STAMPED CONCRETE FOOTBRIDGE
2. DRY CREEK BED OVERFLOW
3. CATTAIL SPRAY & PLAY NODE
4. WATER PUMP OUTLET
5. LANDSCAPED HILL
6. SPRAY ARCHES
7. "WET CREEK BED" W/ BOULDERS & COBBLES
8. POURED RUBBER "POND" W/ JET SPRAYS
9. POURED RUBBER "BEACH" W/ LOUNGE CHAIRS & PICNIC TABLES
10. PAVER PLAZA W/ PICNIC TABLES
11. CANTILEVER SHADE STRUCTURE
12. VEGETATED BERM



Lions Park Splash Pad | Preferred Concept

New Brighton, Minnesota

October 19, 2022 | WSB Project number: 019726-000





| | |
|---------------------------------|-------------------|
| Agenda Section: | V |
| Item: | B |
| Report Date: | 11/30/2022 |
| Commission Meeting Date: | 12/07/2022 |

| |
|--|
| ITEM DESCRIPTION: Splash Pad Design |
| DEPARTMENT HEAD'S APPROVAL: Jennifer Fink, Director of Parks and Recreation |
| CITY MANAGER'S APPROVAL: |
| No comments to supplement this report ____ Comments attached ____ |

History: Council approved the Comprehensive Parks and Trails plan in 2020. As a part of that plan, a splash pad was noted as an improvement for Lions Park.

Financial Impact: Approximately \$430,000 has been allocated from the abatement bond funding for the design, construction and installation of the splash pad.

Summary: WSB created an online engagement tool that allowed the City to solicit feedback on the type of splash pad elements that were of interest to the community. What people seemed to be drawn to were the natural elements. However it was noted that the splash pad should pay attention to including elements that were attractive and fun looking for children. WSB created three concepts that were shared with staff. Those concepts were refined down based on operational considerations. That design is included for discussion among the commissioners. We will also review feedback provided by the Community.

Attachments: Splash Pad Design

Jennifer Fink, CPRP

Director of Parks and Recreation