APPENDIX 1

Form Letter Index

Form Letter Copies

FORESTRY FORM LETTERS INDEX

Private Property Infectious Diseased Trees

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Pine wilt disease letter
Soliciting quotes for diseased tree removal
Cost letter for diseased tree removal

Private Property Vegetation and Tree Issues

Notice of Violation
Required private tree removal
Required private tree removal – second notice

Village of DOWNERS GROVE FOUNDED IN 1832
www.downers.us

COMMUNITY RESPONSE CENTER
630.434.CALL (2255)

CIVIC CENTER
801 Burlington Avenue
Downers Grove
Illinois 60515-4782
630.434.5500
TDD 630.434.5511
FAX 630.434.5571

FIRE DEPARTMENT ADMINISTRATION
5420 Main Street
Downers Grove
Illinois 60515-4834
630.434.5980
FAX 630.434.5998

POLICE DEPARTMENT
825 Burlington Avenue
Downers Grove
Illinois 60515-4783
630.434.5600
FAX 630.434.5690

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT
5101 Walnut Avenue
Downers Grove
Illinois 60515-4046
630.434.5460
FAX 630.434.5495

Notice of Diseased Tree(s) on Private Property

Date

Dear Property Owner:

To preserve the health, safety and aesthetic value of our community's vibrant tree canopy, sometimes an elm tree needs to be removed. The most common causes for elm tree removals are infectious Dutch Elm Disease, structural weakness from decay or storm damage, and tree decline and death.

Regrettably an elm tree(s) located on your private property at **address** (parcel **pin #**) has been identified with Dutch Elm Disease (DED) and must be removed. This tree is designated with red "X" mark in the **property location** yard.

Downers Grove Municipal Code 24.105 (see enclosure) requires that all diseased and dead elms be removed at the expense of the property owner in a timely manner. The Village will not pick up trees or parts of trees cut by a contractor or by you. In that some trees may be near property lines, please check your plat of survey to confirm that the marked trees are on your property.

Dutch Elm Disease is caused by a fungus which grows under the bark of the elm trees and plugs the conductive tissues of the tree. It is spread to elm trees by either the feeding of the elm bark beetle or root grafts between healthy and infected elms. Since no cure exists to treat DED, prompt diagnosis and removal of infected and dead elm trees is the best method for slowing the spread of DED to other elms in the community.

Companies performing tree removal activities in Downers Grove need to have obtained a tree removal license from the Village. This license is renewed every calendar year and requires a certificate of insurance. Using a licensed tree removal company is a good way to protect your property particularly when power lines are nearby. A list of licensed tree removal companies is enclosed for your convenience.

If there are any questions regarding this notice, or if you are having difficulty removing the trees in the near future, please contact my office at 630-434-5475 or kvonderheide@downers.us.

Sincerely,

Kerstin G. von der Heide
Village Forester

Village of DOWNERS GROVE FOUNDED IN 1832

www.downers.us

COMMUNITY RESPONSE CENTER
630.434.CALL (2255)

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PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT
5101 Walnut Avenue
Downers Grove
Illinois 60515-4046
630.434.5460
FAX 630.434.5495

Notice of Diseased Tree(s) on Private Property

DATE

Dear Property Owner:

To preserve the health, safety and aesthetic value of our community's vibrant tree canopy, sometimes an oak tree needs to be removed. The most common causes for oak tree removals are infectious Oak Wilt Disease, structural weakness from decay or storm damage, and tree decline and death.

I regret to inform you that oak trees on your property at ADDRESS in Downers Grove must be removed because of Oak Wilt Disease. These trees are designated with a red "X" mark on the property.

Downers Grove Municipal Code 24.105 (see enclosure) requires that all diseased and dead oaks be removed at the expense of the property owner in a timely manner. These trees must be cut down and destroyed. In that some trees may be near property lines, please check your plat of survey to confirm that the marked trees are on your property.

Oak Wilt Disease is caused by a fungus and is spread by root grafts between trees, and to fresh tree wounds by sap-feeding insects that have moved from an infected tree transporting the disease with them. Since no cure exists to treat Oak Wilt, prompt diagnosis and removal of infected and dead oak trees is the best method for slowing the spread of Oak Wilt to other oaks in the community.

Unfortunately, all marked oak trees must be cut down and destroyed at the expense of the property owner. The Village will not pick up trees or parts of trees cut by a contractor or by you.

If there are any questions regarding this notice, or if you are having difficulty removing the trees in the near future, please contact my office at 630-434-5475 or kvonderheide@downers.us.

Sincerely,

Kerstin G. von der Heide
Village Forester

Village of DOWNERS GROVE FOUNDED IN 1832
www.downers.us

Notice of Diseased Tree(s) on Private Property

DATE

COMMUNITY RESPONSE CENTER
630.434.CALL (2255)

CIVIC CENTER
801 Burlington Avenue
Downers Grove
Illinois 60515-4782
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TDD 630.434.5511
FAX 630.434.5571

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5420 Main Street
Downers Grove
Illinois 60515-4834
630.434.5980
FAX 630.434.5998

POLICE DEPARTMENT
825 Burlington Avenue
Downers Grove
Illinois 60515-4783
630.434.5600
FAX 630.434.5690

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT
5101 Walnut Avenue
Downers Grove
Illinois 60515-4046
630.434.5460
FAX 630.434.5495

Dear Property Owner:

To preserve the health, safety and aesthetic value of our community's vibrant tree canopy, sometimes a pine tree needs to be removed. The most common causes for pine tree removals are infectious Pine Wilt Disease, structural weakness from decay or storm damage, and tree decline and death.

I regret to inform you that pine trees on your property at ADDRESS in Downers Grove must be removed because of Pine Wilt Disease. These trees are designated with a red "X" mark on the property.

Downers Grove Municipal Code 24.105 (see enclosure) requires that all diseased and dead pines be removed at the expense of the property owner in a timely manner. These trees must be cut down and destroyed. In that some trees may be near property lines, please check your plat of survey to confirm that the marked trees are on your property.

Pine Wilt Disease appears to have a variety of causes including pine wood nematode (which colonizes the wood), blue stain fungi (which stains the interior of the wood and interferes with water uptake), pine bark beetles, adverse weather or soil conditions, and tree age. Any one or a combination of these factors can result in a dead tree. All species of pine are susceptible to Pine Wilt Disease, but Scotch pine appears to be the most susceptible in the Chicago region. Since no cure exists to treat Pine Wilt, prompt diagnosis and removal of infected and dead pine trees is the best method for slowing the spread of Pine Wilt to other pines in the community.

Unfortunately, all marked pine trees must be cut down and destroyed at the expense of the property owner. The Village will not pick up trees or parts of trees cut by a contractor or by you.

If there are any questions regarding this notice, or if you are having difficulty removing the trees in the near future, please contact my office at 630-434-5475 or kvonderheide@downers.us.

Sincerely,

Kerstin G. von der Heide
Village Forester

Village of DOWNERS GROVE
FOUNDED IN 1832
www.downers.us

COMMUNITY RESPONSE CENTER
630.434.CALL (2255)

CIVIC CENTER
801 Burlington Avenue
Downers Grove
Illinois 60515-4776
630.434.5500
TDD 630.434.5511
FAX 630.434.5571

FIRE DEPARTMENT ADMINISTRATION
6701 Main Street
Downers Grove
Illinois 60516-3426
630.434.5980
FAX 630.434.5998

POLICE DEPARTMENT
825 Burlington Avenue
Downers Grove
Illinois 60515-4783
630.434.5600
FAX 630.434.5690

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT
5101 Walnut Avenue
Downers Grove
Illinois 60515-4074
630.434.5460
FAX 630.434.5495

DEPARTMENT OF COUNSELING AND SOCIAL SERVICES
842 Curtiss Street
Downers Grove
Illinois 60515-4761
630.434.5595
FAX 630.434.5599

DOWNERS GROVE 175th ANNIVERSARY
Celebrating Tradition and Progress

Notice of Diseased Tree(s) on Private Property

DATE

Dear Property Owner:

I regret to inform you with a second notice that an elm tree on your property at ADDRESS (pin number _____) in Downers Grove must be removed because of Dutch Elm Disease (DED). This tree is designated with a red "X" mark on the tree trunk.

The Downers Grove Municipal Code 24-6 (see enclosure) requires that all diseased and dead elms be removed at the expense of the property owner within thirty (30) days of receipt of this notice. The first notice was dated August 15th so more than the allotted time has passed. Any marked trees must be cut down and destroyed.

Dutch Elm Disease is caused by a fungus which grows under the bark of the elm trees and plugs the conductive tissues of the tree. It is spread to elm trees by either the feeding of the elm bark beetle or root grafts between healthy and infected elms. Since no cure exists to treat DED, prompt diagnosis and removal of infected and dead elm trees is the best method for slowing the spread of DED to other elms in the community.

Unfortunately, all marked elm trees must be cut down and destroyed at the expense of the property owner. The Village will not pick up trees or parts of trees cut by a contractor or by you. If marked trees are not removed in the next month, I will solicit quotations from certified tree service companies and I will move forward with the removal of these trees. Upon removal, a lien will be filed with the Recorder of Deeds of DuPage County. The dollar amount of the lien shall accrue interest at ten percent a year for each year the amount remains unpaid.

If there are any questions regarding this notice, or if you are having difficulty removing your tree within 30 days, please contact the Forestry Division at 630-434-5475.

Sincerely,

Kerstin G. von der Heide
Village Forester

Village of DOWNERS GROVE FOUNDED IN 1832

www.downers.us

COMMUNITY RESPONSE CENTER
630.434.CALL (2255)

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FAX 630.434.5998

POLICE DEPARTMENT
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Downers Grove
Illinois 60515-4783
630.434.5600
FAX 630.434.5690

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT
5101 Walnut Avenue
Downers Grove
Illinois 60515-4046
630.434.5460
FAX 630.434.5495

Notice of Tree Removal on Private Property

DATE

Dear RESIDENT:

As mentioned in a previous letters, Downers Grove Municipal Code 24-6 requires that diseased elms be removed at the expense of the property owner in a timely manner. In that the diseased elm tree at your ADDRESS (PIN) has not been removed, I have contacted several certified tree service companies for removal quotes. I will now follow-up with the contractor who gave the best price, _____ for $_____, and have the tree removal scheduled in the next 2 weeks. Once the tree has been removed, a lien will be filed with the Office of the Recorder of Deeds for DuPage County for the cost the removal plus a $_____administrative charge. This dollar amount shall accrue interest at 10% a year for each year the amount remains unpaid (see enclosure).

If there are any questions regarding this notice, please contact my office at 630-434-5475.

Sincerely,

Kerstin G. von der Heide
Village Forester

Village of DOWNERS GROVE FOUNDED IN 1832
www.downers.us

Notice of Lien on Private Property

DATE

COMMUNITY RESPONSE CENTER
630.434.CALL (2255)

CIVIC CENTER
801 Burlington Avenue
Downers Grove
Illinois 60515-4782
630.434.5500
TDD 630.434.5511
FAX 630.434.5571

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630.434.5980
FAX 630.434.5998

POLICE DEPARTMENT
825 Burlington Avenue
Downers Grove
Illinois 60515-4783
630.434.5600
FAX 630.434.5690

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT
5101 Walnut Avenue
Downers Grove
Illinois 60515-4046
630.434.5460
FAX 630.434.5495

Dear Property Owner:

As mentioned in previous letters, Downers Grove Municipal Code 24.6 requires that diseased elms be removed at the expense of the property owner in a timely manner. In that the diseased elm tree at your ADDRESS was not removed by _____, I contracted to have this tree removed. Now that the tree has been removed, a lien will be filed with the Office of the Recorder of Deeds for DuPage County. The cost of the removal was $_____plus a $_____ administrative charge. This dollar amount shall accrue interest at 10% a year for each year the amount remains unpaid.

If there are any questions regarding this notice, please contact the Forestry Division at 434-5475.

Sincerely,

Kerstin G. von der Heide
Village Forester

Village of DOWNERS GROVE FOUNDED IN 1832

www.downers.us

COMMUNITY RESPONSE CENTER
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POLICE DEPARTMENT
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FAX 630.434.5690

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT
5101 Walnut Avenue
Downers Grove
Illinois 60515-4046
630.434.5460
FAX 630.434.5495

NOTICE OF VIOLATION

Date

Property Owner
Address
Downers Grove, IL 60515

Re: type of violation

Dear Property Owner:

A recent inspection of the property at ADDRESS, Downers Grove, Illinois, revealed the following violation(s) of the code of ordinances of the Village of Downers Grove:

Allowing vegetation to grow in a manner which interferes with pedestrian use of the public sidewalk in violation of section 24.4(f) of the Downers Grove Municipal Code. The following violation was noted: **detailed explanation** .

You are hereby ordered to abate the violation by removing/relocating the offending plants prior to my next scheduled inspection on DATE . Failure to comply may result in the issuance of a citation each day the violation continues to exist on or after the compliance date.

If you fail to correct the violations, any action taken by the Village of Downers Grove, the authority having jurisdiction, may be charged against the real estate upon which the structure is located and shall be a lien upon such real estate.

Please contact me at 630-434-5590 if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Name

Code Enforcement Officer

Village of DOWNERS GROVE FOUNDED IN 1832
www.downers.us

COMMUNITY RESPONSE CENTER
630.434.CALL (2255)

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801 Burlington Avenue
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POLICE DEPARTMENT
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FAX 630.434.5690

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT
5101 Walnut Avenue
Downers Grove
Illinois 60515-4046
630.434.5460
FAX 630.434.5495

Notice of Required Tree Removal on Private Property

Date , 2015

Dear Property Owner:

To preserve the health, safety and aesthetic value of our community's vibrant tree canopy, sometimes a tree needs to be removed. The most common causes for tree removal are structural weakness from decay or storm damage, and tree decline and death.

Regrettably a tree (s) located on your private property at **address** (parcel **pin** #) has been identified as declining or dead, causing a potentially dangerous condition for the adjacent public area. To reduce the risk of large branches or tree sections from falling on pedestrians and motorists, you will need to remove the tree(s) which have been marked with a red "X" at the base.

Section 24.4(f) of the Downers Grove Municipal Code requires that vegetation which creates an obstruction or dangerous condition to the public be removed after receipt of this notice. Please check your plat of survey to confirm that the marked trees are located on your property and remove the tree within 30 days of this notification. If you fail to remove the marked tree(s) you may be held liable for any damages caused by them.

Companies performing tree removal activities in Downers Grove need to have obtained a tree removal license from the Village. This license is renewed every calendar year and requires a certificate of insurance. Using a licensed tree removal company is a good way to protect your property particularly when power lines are nearby. A list of licensed tree removal companies is enclosed for your convenience.

If there are any questions about this notice, or if you are having difficulty removing the tree(s) within the 30 day time frame, please contact my office at 630-434-5475 or kvonderheide@downers.us.

Sincerely,

Kerstin G. von der Heide
Village Forester

Enclosures

Village of DOWNERS GROVE FOUNDED IN 1832

www.downers.us

COMMUNITY RESPONSE CENTER
630.434.CALL (2255)

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801 Burlington Avenue
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630.434.5500
TDD 630.434.5511
FAX 630.434.5571

FIRE DEPARTMENT ADMINISTRATION
5420 Main Street
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Illinois 60515-4834
630.434.5980
FAX 630.434.5998

POLICE DEPARTMENT
825 Burlington Avenue
Downers Grove
Illinois 60515-4783
630.434.5600
FAX 630.434.5690

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT
5101 Walnut Avenue
Downers Grove
Illinois 60515-4046
630.434.5460
FAX 630.434.5495

2nd Notice of Required Tree Removal on Private Property

December 3, 2015

Dear Property Owner:

Please be advised that a declining/dead tree(s) on your property located at **address** (parcel **pin #**) is causing a dangerous condition for the adjacent public area. This tree(s) is/are marked with red "X" mark(s). Given the tree's size and condition, large parts may fall and impact the public area. To reduce the risk for pedestrians and motorists, you will need to remove all marked trees.

Section 24.4(f) of the Downers Grove Municipal Code requires that vegetation which creates an obstruction or dangerous condition to the public be removed after receipt of this notice. I have enclosed a copy of this ordinance for your review. This is the second notice you are receiving regarding this issue. Please check your plat of survey to confirm that the marked tree(s) are located on your property and remove them within ten (10) days from receipt of this notice. As the tree(s) are located on private property, if you fail to remove the marked tree(s) you may be held liable for any damages caused by them.

Pursuant to Section 24.4, your failure to remove the marked tree(s) may result in the issuance of a citation, fines and the placement of a lien against your property. If there are any questions about this notice, or if you are having difficulty removing the tree(s) within the ten (10) day time frame, please contact my office at 630-434-5475 or kvonderheide@downers.us.

Sincerely,

Kerstin G. von der Heide
Village Forester

Enclosures

APPENDIX 2

Quarterly Newsletter Articles
Newspaper Articles
Press Releases

Content Navigation

Spring Tree Planting

Last updated: Public Relations Specialist | Monday, May 16, 2016

Spring parkway tree planting is underway. A total of 334 trees will be planted representing 33 different species, including seven unique oak species. Of the 334 trees, 13 are new tree plantings where there was no tree before, and the remaining 321 trees are placements for trees removed due to Emerald Ash Borer infestations, disease, decline or storm damage. Also, the Village will be honoring 148 specific tree species requests, which improve resident satisfaction and the likelihood of longterm tree survival.

A TreeGator® will be made available free of charge for each newly planted parkway tree. A TreeGator® is a 20 - gallon plastic reservoir that attaches around the trunk of the tree. The TreeGator® is quickly and easily filled twice a week with a garden hose, and the small holes in the bottom allow water to trickle out slowly. This encourages deep root growth. For more than a decade, TreeGators® have improved tree survival and simplified tree care. Shown in the picture are trees planted along 67th Street which have grown and flourished since their planting in 2005.

Special Recognition Awards IAA 2013

Jim Schuster
For annually setting up his elaborate insect and disease display at the Illinois Arborist Association Annual Conference. The educational opportunity that this display offers and the amount of attention it gathers make it an integral part of our conference.

Bryant Scharenbroch
For all his time and dedication to making the Midwest Urban Tree Care Forum a big success.

Kerstin Von der Heide
for her efforts and countless hours spent in clarifying whether Prevailing Wages are required for tree and landscape contracts led by public bodies in Illinois. Her achievements in clarifying a very confusing language and to reach a consensus with many disparate groups have saved the Illinois taxpayers significant costs.

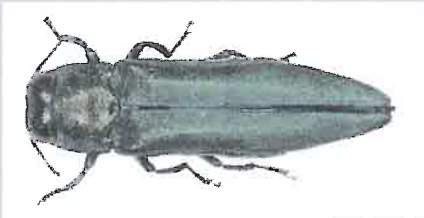
Jim Semelka
For his efforts and countless hours spent in clarifying whether Prevailing Wages are required for tree and landscape contracts led by public bodies in Illinois. Her achievements in clarifying a very confusing language and to reach a consensus with many disparate groups have saved the Illinois taxpayers significant costs.

Gold Leaf Winners:

The Village of Homewood

Kerr School Arbor Day Event

Insatiable Hunger Games



What's green, hails from Asia, and has an appetite for destruction? No, it's not Godzilla...it's the Emerald Ash Borer (EAB). Though just half an inch long, these invaders can kill an ash tree in a few years, once a tree has been infected.

The Village's first case of EAB was reported last May, detected in a private ash tree in the 1900 block of Warren Avenue. Since then, forestry staff have kept a watchful eye on the nearly 4,000 ash trees planted in Village parkways. Declining ash trees are being dissected and inspected for the presence of EAB larvae, internal S-shaped larvae galleries, and characteristic D-shaped exit holes in the outer bark. Staff is also following up on all calls regarding ash trees on both public and private property.

The EAB larvae feast on the trunks of ash trees, thereby cutting off their ability to transport nutrients and ultimately causing the tree's decline. Adult EAB beetles emerge from infested trees beginning in mid-May, peaking in late June, and continue to emerge until late July.

An important strategy in containing the spread of EAB is the removal of suspect trees that are in poor health or potentially infested. If two or more signs of infection are present or the ash tree is at least 50% dead, the tree will be removed.

This summer, the Village will treat select parkway ash trees to help prevent the spread of EAB to healthy trees. An injection of pesticide will be applied at the base of the tree or directly into the trunk to kill any borers inside. Residents in the affected areas have been notified.

For answers to questions about EAB and ash trees, or possible sightings of the EAB beetle, please contact the Village Forester at 630-434-5475.

Additional information about the Emerald Ash Borer can be found on the Village website at **www.downers.us**. Under "Trending Topics," click on Emerald Ash Borer.

Leave the Fireworks to the Pros

Did you know that fireworks are ***illegal*** in Downers Grove and in Illinois? The Downers Grove Municipal Code mirrors that of the Illinois State Fireworks Code, which means that firecrackers, bottle rockets, cherry bombs, and the like are prohibited. Though one can easily purchase fireworks legally in adjacent states, it is illegal to bring them home across the border. Any person convicted of an offense shall be subject to a fine of between $75.00 and $750.00.

Legal firework novelties such as sparklers, fountains, snakes, party poppers, and ground spinners, marketed as "safe," still possess dangers. About one quarter of emergency room fireworks injuries occur from July 2 to July 5. The risk of fireworks injury is more than twice as high for children ages 10-14 as for the general population. Children as young as 2 years old are commonly handed sparklers which reach temperatures of 1,200 to 1,800 degrees, hot enough to cause third-degree burns, yet adults underestimate the dangers.

For a July 4 that's both exciting and safe, leave the fireworks to the experts and take the family to a professional outdoor display. (See cover story.)

Village of Downers Grove
1.630.434.5500 • www.downers.us

Mayor Martin T. Tully
Commissioners: Marilyn Schnell, William Waddack,
Sean Patrick Durkin, Geoff Neustadt, Robert T. Barnett, Becky Rheinlgen
Village Manager David Fieldman

The "Village Corner" is edited and published by the Village of Downers Grove. Any questions concerning the content of this page should be directed to the phone number referenced in the article. If a number is not listed in the article, please call the Community Response Center at 1.630.434.CARE (2273).

Meeting dates, times, locations and agendas are subject to change.
Check the Village website at www.downers.us and DGTV Channel 6 for the most current meeting information.

Village CORNER

"Downers Grove Preserves the Balance Between Tradition and Progress"

PARADE LEADS JULY 4 IN NEW DIRECTION

It won't be your imagination if you think the procession is going the wrong way down Main Street on July 4. This year, the Downers Grove parade route will originate at Main and Grant on the north side of town and proceed SOUTH on Main toward the downtown, ending at Warren Avenue. The parade begins at 12:45 p.m.

The fun doesn't stop when the parade ends....

FREE CONCERT IN FISHEL PARK (NEW EVENT!!)

Immediately following the parade (approximately 2:30 p.m.), head to Fishel Park and the new Veterans Memorial Pavilion for a free concert hosted by the Downers Grove Junior Woman's Club. Enjoy the sounds of local favorite, HindSight, playing a mix of rock and roll from the 60s through today. Food and refreshments will be available for purchase, plus face painting for the kids and more.

FOURTH OF JULY TRAFFIC ENFORCEMENT CAMPAIGN

The Downers Grove Police Department is participating in a yearlong initiative that focuses on impaired driving and seat belt enforcement on specific holidays, including the Fourth of July. This initiative is in partnership with the Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT), and is funded with an IDOT traffic grant totaling $33,000.00. As part of the Downers Grove Police Department's holiday emphasis, officers will be working saturation patrols that target impaired drivers and seat belt enforcement zones.

While celebrating during the Fourth of July, please use caution when you are on the road. The Fourth of July is one of the deadliest times for traffic crashes due to a rise in impaired driving. During the 2010 Fourth of July period, 392 people were killed in traffic crashes. Of those fatalities, 39% involved a drunk driver. While these fatalities are devastating, they are fully preventable. Consider the following tips:

- Plan a safe way home before the fun begins;
- Before drinking, designate a sober driver;
- If you see a drunk driver on the road, call 9-1-1 and report their location immediately;
- Wear safety belts – every trip, every seat location, every time – it's the best defense against a drunk driver.
- Finally, remember – Buzzed Driving is Drunk Driving.

buzzed driving is drunk driving
designate a sober driver

DATES TO KNOW

There will be no meeting of the Village Council on Tuesday, July 3, 2012. The next scheduled meeting will be Tuesday, July 10, 2012.

Most Village offices of the Village of Downers Grove will be closed on Wednesday, July 4, 2012, for the Independence Day holiday.

July 4 is also a garbage holiday. Collections will be delayed by one day for the remainder of that week.

NEW PARKWAY TREE? GET A FREE TREEGATOR®

To aid residents who have had a new parkway tree planted, the Forestry Division has a helpful watering device called a TreeGator®. A TreeGator® is a 20-gallon plastic reservoir that attaches around the trunk of the tree.

Newly planted trees need water the most as they grow new roots and become established in their new environment. The TreeGator® is quickly and easily filled twice a week with a garden hose, and the small holes in the bottom allow water to trickle out slowly. This encourages deep root growth.

Residents may have one TreeGator® for each new tree planted in the parkway, at no cost. For more information, contact the Forestry Division at (630) 434-5475.

Village Council meetings are held the first, second, and third Tuesday of the month at 7:00 p.m. in the Village Hall Council Chambers at 801 Burlington Avenue.

Village Council meetings are broadcast live on DGTV-Ch. 6. The rebroadcast of these meetings can be seen Wednesday mornings at 9:00 a.m. and Thursday evenings at 7:00 p.m.

Live radio broadcasts of Council meetings can only be heard at 7:00 p.m. the first and third Tuesday of the month on WDGC-FM, 88.3.

Podcast and live streaming coverage of Council meetings are also available at www.downers.us.

Individuals with a disability requiring a reasonable accommodation in order to participate in any meeting should contact the ADA Coordinator at 630.434.5525, prior to the meeting. Wheelchair access is available through the south entrance of Village Hall.

6-27-12

Downers Grove Marks Arbor Week

Last updated: Public Relations Specialist | Monday, April 23, 2012

The Village of Downers Grove will participate in recognizing **Arbor Week** from April 22 (Earth Day) to April 27 (Arbor Day), 2012. The Morton Arboretum, in conjunction with The City of Chicago, suburban communities, Morton Salt Inc., BMO Harris Bank Chicago, and The Davey Tree Experts Company are applying "value tags" on more than 2,000 trees across the region to illustrate the enormous environmental benefits trees provide.

The large two-sided 11" X 17" value tags reveal the dollar value of a tree's benefits based on scientific data. Trees are being tagged in Downers Grove, across the suburbs and in the City of Chicago to celebrate and showcase the value trees bring to making the world a greener, healthier and a more beautiful place. The tree value tags will be in place for two weeks.

The website www.treebenefits.com simplifies the calculations of carbon reduction, electrical energy savings and property value impact, based on the tree species, size and location. Collectively, for every dollar invested annually in trees (planting, mulching, pruning or watering), the benefits add up to about $2.70.

Participating suburban communities include Downers Grove, Glen Ellyn, Glendale Heights, Lisle, Lombard, Naperville and Wheaton.

Lineman OK out of limelight

Ulrich and DGS defense quietly dominant this season Page 40

OUR VIEW:

Make a deal to keep Sara Lee in town

Page 10

iPOWER:

An online report only available at mysuburbanlife.com/influences

Invasion of technology, pop culture testing kids and parenting

Get a sneak peak of the project on Page 24

Downers Grove Reporter

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 19, 2011 ▮ $1.25 ▮ MYSUBURBANLIFE.COM/DOWNERSGROVE

Downers Grove's award-winning forestry division fights stormy summer with fall tree-planting PAGE 25

Kerstin Vonderheide, Downers Grove village forester, talks about some of the recently planted trees on Dunham Road near 71st in Downers Grove Friday.
Staff photo by Mark Busch

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Published by Suburban Life Publications Vol. 89 No. 26 G5

Kerstin Vonderheide, Downers Grove's village forester, talks Friday about some of the recently planted trees on Dunham Road near 71st Street in Downers Grove. The village plants new trees every year, but the number this year is unusually high in order to replace the many trees lost in this summer's storms. Staff photo by Mark Busch

Forestry program pines for a greener village

Workers launch tree-planting program to combat summer storm damages

By Nick Vogel
nvogel@mysuburbanlife.com

It's tree-planting time again in Downers Grove.

Twice each year — in the fall and the spring — landscape workers travel from block-to-block planting young trees of various species.

Typically, the biannual planting of the trees is meant to replace older trees that died or had been removed to make way for development. This fall's plantings, however, also will replace the trees lost during the memorable wave of severe weather in Downers Grove this summer.

"We lost 178 (trees from the severe weather)," said Kerstin VonDerheide, who's run the village's forestry division since 1993.

Of the fall planting, 113 trees are going to be directly replacing some of those storm losses.

The village's tree program has been in existence for three decades and is one of the things that makes Downers Grove unique compared to other suburbs. This year, the village set aside $120,000 in its budget for tree planting.

"We are very, very, very fortunate. I can't say that enough," VonDerheide said. "We are one of the communities that, yes, we have a well-funded forestry program. Some of the communities surrounding us had to cut back."

This fall's tree plantings are part of an ongoing project to create a kind of urban forest. In the process, the village has earned special recognition and even awards for its forestry program. For instance, the National Arbor Day Foundation has recognized Downers Grove as a Tree City USA community every year since 1984. The village has also received the foundation's Growth

See FORESTRY, Page 27

23,000 How many trees the Downers Grove's forestry program manages

54 The percentage of parkway trees in the village that have been planted by Downers Grove's forestry program

27 Number of the variety of tree species the village is planting this fall

100 Number of different tree species growing on village parkways

Source: Village of Downers Grove

FORESTRY

Continued from Page 25

Award multiple times since 1992 for promoting a high level of tree care.

Downers Grove is one of only five communities in the nation that have received accreditation from the Society of Municipal Arborists, and it's held that accreditation longer than any community on the list.

SMA Executive Director Jerri J. LaHaie said the economy is one of the factors affecting the small number of communities that have received accreditation.

"With budgets tight and cities laying off, I think accreditation is not a top priority right now," LaHaie added.

LaHaie argues that trees are a municipal resource, similar to roads or sewers. She said a community should have a forestry program because like roads and sewers, trees need to be maintained and managed.

Sure, trees can grow without human interference, but planting the right tree in the right place, pruning trees to protect people from falling limbs, "planning for the removal of those trees so you don't have a city full of dead stalks. ... These are all things that need professional management," LaHaie said.

Here in Downers Grove, the fall planting began Oct. 10 and continued throughout the village for three additional days.

"The biggest reason for a tree planting is for the removal or the loss of an existing tree, providing there is space," VonDerheide explained.

A majority of the trees were planted on village-controlled park space, which is the land between the street and the sidewalk. Twelve of the new trees were planted near 8th Street and Cumnor Road to help with stormwater detention.

Though only a four-day event, planning the project is a yearlong task, VonDerheide said.

"I do try to plant a mixture of tree species in the parkways, just so that one disease or one insect doesn't come in and devastate a whole population," she added.

When Dutch Elm disease struck the area, it took out a large population of the village's trees, she said. Now, there's significantly less elm trees in town.

Planting a tree takes a bit more than just digging a hole and putting one in the ground, VonDerheide said.

First, VonDerheide purchase the trees from nurseries all over northern Illinois. Then, after a hole is dug, the tree's roots must be placed at the right height in the soil, she said.

The village then covers the base of the tree with a green treegator.

What's a treegator?

"It's a triangle-shaped green thing that sits around the tree and holds about 20 gallons (of water) when you hold it up," VonDerheide said. "And it slowly trickles about two gallons of water."

Once the trees are planted, the village relies solely on residents to ensure their continued success.

"We've actually had a really good response," VonDerHeide said.

That's because in most cases, the specific trees planted on village parkways in front of residents' homes were requested by the residents, she said.

The end of September and the beginning of October presents a window of opportunity for planting trees, said Sharon Yiesla, a plant clinic assistant and tree expert at the Morton Arboretum in Lisle.

"It's really about the fact that the soil is still warm, and so that encourages root growth," Yiesla said.

The summer's storms damaged a good number of trees in the area surrounding Downers Grove, too.

"We had a lot of questions, and a lot of (them came) from homeowners," Yiesla said. "They had damage to their trees and they wanted to know, 'Can I save the tree?'"

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NEWS BRIEFS

Downers Grove parks leader Cermak to retire

Downers Grove Park District Administrator Dan Cermak will retire next year.

Cermak has been with the park district for the past 34 years.

During that time he played a key role in advancing the agency's services, programs and facilities including a new golf course driving range and learning center in 1994, a new golf course clubhouse in 1995, plus the rebuilding of all greens, tees, bunkers and the reconfiguration of the course in the early 1990s, according to the park district.

In 2003, the construction of the recreation and fitness center and the William F. Sherman Jr. Interpretive Center was completed along with multiple land acquisitions at Lyman Woods.

In addition, Cermak provided oversight in the acquisition and renovation of the district administration and maintenance facility on Warrenville Road, the construction of the museum annex, the Whitlock Park renovation in the mid 1990s, the installation of the Doerhoefer Park synthetic turf field in 2005 and the original construction of McCollum Park in the early 1980s.

Downers Grove YMCA to host 'Dance Like a Star'

The Indian Boundary YMCA has hit on a unique way of raising money.

In November, the nonprofit will hold a "Dance Like a Star" dinner event. For a $125 ticket price, attendees can watch Downers Grove Mayor Martin Tully and Mrs. Illinois America Zara Johnson dance with professional dancers.

The dinner is at 6 p.m. Nov. 12 at the Indian Boundary YMCA, 711 59th St., Downers Grove. A table for 10 costs $1,000.

A citizen of the year also will be named at the event. For more information, call (630) 968-3800.

In conjunction with the annual budget meeting the Fairview Fire Protection District (FFPD) of DuPage County, State of Illinois, will conduct a public hearing regarding its intention to add a tax levy for the year 2011, which is more than 10% of the tax extension for the year 2010.

The Corporate and Special Purpose Property Taxes extended or abated for 2010 were $18,559.00.

The aggregate amount of the proposed levy for 2011 is $22,500.00.

The percent of increase is 20%.

The public hearing, Oct. 28, 2011 at 3810 Glendenning Rd., Downers Grove, Illinois at 4:00 P.M.

Copies of the tentative budget are available during regular business hours at 3810 Glendenning Rd. Downers Grove, Illinois 60515.

By Rudolph Wilczynski
Secretary Treasurer

October 19, 2011
Suburban Life Publications 4722 DG

Emerald Ash Borer in Downers Grove

Last updated: Public Relations Specialist | Tuesday, June 07, 2011

Photo credit: David Cappaert, Michigan State University, Bugwood.org

The first case of Emerald Ash Borer, the destructive non-native, invasive pest whose larvae feast on the trunks of ash trees, has been found in Downers Grove. The infected ash tree, located on private property in the 1900 block of Warren Ave., was in declining health, prompting the owners to contact several tree services for estimates on removal.

On May 26, 2011, two of those companies contacted Village Forester Kerstin von der Heide to advise of their suspicion that the tree was infected with EAB, which was verified upon her own inspection and confirmed by the Illinois Department of Agriculture on June 6, 2011. Village forestry staff surveyed the area surrounding the infected tree and has not found any other ash trees that are compromised.

The Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) is a small, dark green metallic beetle from Asia, only about ½ in length. It was first discovered in the United States in 2002 in southeast Michigan and has since spread to Illinois and several other states.

The beetle larvae feast on the trunks of ash trees, thereby cutting off their ability to transport nutrients and ultimately causing the tree's decline. Adult EAB beetles emerge from infested trees beginning in mid-May, peaking in late June, and continue emerging until late July. Ash trees can be infested with EAB for a few years before the tree begins to demonstrate any signs of EAB infestation.

Symptoms of EAB include canopy dieback, D-shaped exit holes, shoots sprouting from the tree trunks and S-shaped larval galleries underneath the bark. Ash tree owners may ask about treatment options in order to avoid removing their trees; however the only guaranteed method to control EAB is to remove the host tree(s).

There are 4,007 ash trees located on public property in Downers Grove, accounting for 17.2% of the Village's parkway tree inventory. The Village continually monitors parkway trees throughout the year looking for problems that may seriously impact tree health or threaten public safety. Residents are encouraged to report any unusual insects near parkway trees or declines in tree health at (630) 434-5460.

Additional information about the Emerald Ash Borer and preventive measures taken by the Village can be found on the Trees: Insects and Diseases page.

The Plat Thickens

What's the story with a Plat of Survey? It's a document prepared by a certified land surveyor that depicts a parcel's existing site layout including all structures, utilities and roadways in relationship to property lines. It also includes a legal description of the parcel and the location of any easements. Owners usually receive a copy of the plat when they close on the property.

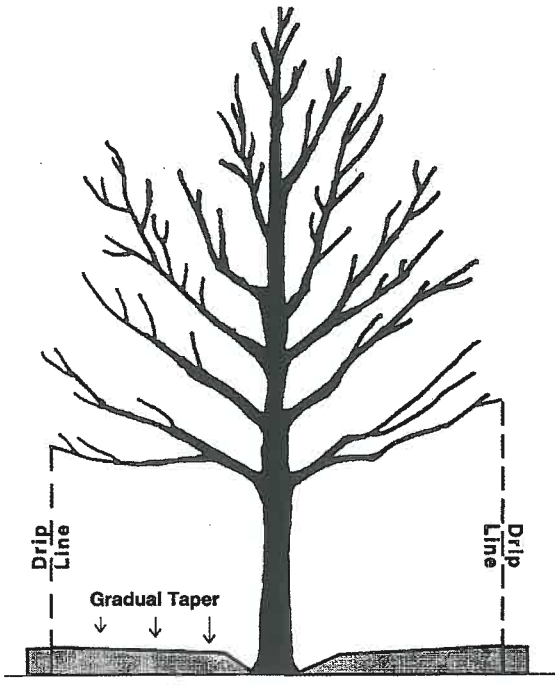
Most people never look at it and file it away with all of the other closing papers. However, it's a good idea to know its location, especially if you're thinking about adding a fence, garage, or other enhancement to your property. A Plat of Survey is required for many types of building permits issued by the Village.

If you are unable to locate your Plat of Survey when you need it, the Village may have a copy on file. Property owners need to fill out a Freedom of Information Act form at Village Hall. Upon receipt of this request, we will research our files and advise you of our finding within seven working days. A nominal fee will be charged for copying if we have your plat on file.

The Benefits of Mulch

One of the simplest, least expensive and most beneficial care practices for a tree is mulching. A 3 to 4 inch layer of organic mulch such as woodchips around the trunk can enhance root growth, condition the soil with additional organic matter, moderate soil temperatures, maintain moisture, and reduce competition from weeds and grass. Mulch can be applied any time of year.

When adding new mulch to an area where mulch is already present, check the depth first. Do not add more mulch if it is already 4 inches deep. Instead, rake the existing mulch to refresh the appearance. Avoid placing mulch against the tree trunk as this can lead to disease and decay problems. If mulch is already piled against the trunk, pull it back several inches so that the base of the trunk is exposed. The size of the area being mulched should extend out to a tree's drip line when possible.



Every day of the year, the Village has free woodchips available for pick up. The fenced site is located on the north side of Curtiss Street at the intersection of Katrine Street, and is open daily from dawn to dusk. Residents are welcome to take the amounts they need using their own transport.

Solicitation Regulations

The Downers Grove Police Department would like to remind residents of the solicitation regulations in our Village.

Commercial Solicitation is defined as contact with residents, without an appointment, for the purpose of selling for profit any goods, services or articles.

Non-Commercial Solicitation is contact with residents, without an appointment, for the purpose of requesting contributions (money, property, or financial assistance) or selling items for charitable, religious, and political causes.

NOTE : Persons who are only seeking or giving information (public opinion polls, political campaigns, pamphlet distribution) are not defined by the Village's ordinance as solicitors.

All Solicitors must:

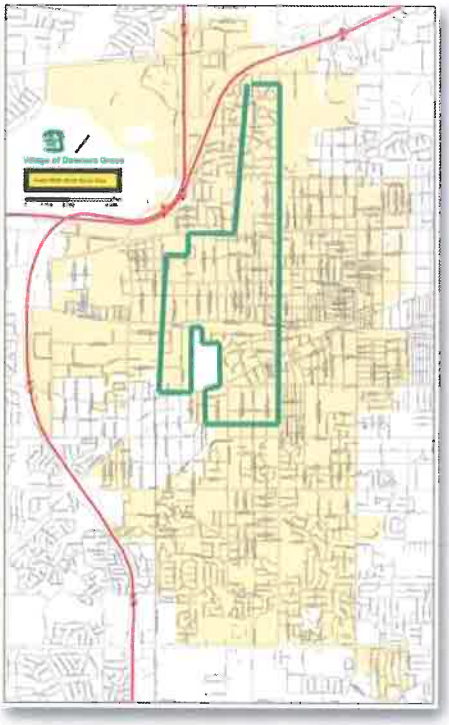
- Apply for a solicitation permit at Village Hall.
- Wear their identification cards on their outer garments.
- Honor "No Soliciting" signs.
- Leave the premises when requested to do so.
- Solicit only during the hours set by the ordinance: Commercial Solicitors: Monday thru Saturday 9 a.m. to 6 p.m., excluding holidays; Non-Commercial Solicitors: 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. including weekends and holidays

A solicitation permit issued by the Village does not constitute any type of endorsement or verify the applicant's credentials. Residents are urged to use common sense when dealing with any solicitor, even those displaying a valid solicitor's permit. As a reminder, police strongly advise against inviting any solicitors into your home.

If you have any concerns about a solicitor or feel they are in violation of these regulations, do not hesitate to call 9-1-1 to report the incident.

Gypsy Moth Control

A portion of the Village will be sprayed this spring to help reduce gypsy moth numbers and slow their spread. The Gypsy Moth Aerial Spray Map (right) shows affected areas that will be treated in May. Using low flying helicopters, two sprayings will take place approximately one week apart.



Enlarge this map at ww.downers.us

The first spray will occur around the middle of May, depending on weather conditions and timing of caterpillar emergence. The second application will follow a week later. Helicopters will fly just over the tops of trees and apply a fine mist of BTK sufficient to lightly cover the foliage.

BTK is not a pesticide, but a naturally occurring bacterium that is not harmful to humans, pets, or the environment. Young caterpillars feeding on treated plant leaves will be killed soon after ingestion.

For more information about the Gypsy Moth, contact Village Forester Kerstin von der Heide at (630) 434-5475.

Council Says "Yes" to Notification System

At their February 3, 2009 meeting, the Village Council approved a three-year agreement with Blackboard Connect, Inc. for the services of a community-wide notification system.

The Connect-CTY system has the ability to reach all Downers Grove residences and businesses with a pre-recorded message within 5 to 10 minutes of activation. The primary form of notification will be by phone; however, residents and businesses will have the opportunity to register additional devices on which to be notified and may edit their account information at any time.

The community-wide notification system can be used to alert the entire Village about an issue or a specific group or area may be targeted. For instance, it might only be necessary to alert residents of a water shut off within a 2 block radius of a main break, but not the entire Village. The Village expects that the system will be operational by May 1.

Calendar of Events

For more events, visit: events.downers.us

Easter Egg Hunt
4/4/09 11:30AM - 12:00PM
Fishel Park
Downers Grove
Presented by Kiwanis Club of Downers Grove
630-325-5220
www.dgkiwanis.org

Come Blow Your Horn
4/24/09 8:00PM - 9:30PM
4/25/09 8:00PM - 9:30PM
4/26/09 2:00PM - 3:30PM
5/1/09 8:00PM - 9:30PM
5/2/09 8:00PM - 9:30PM
5/3/09 2:00PM - 3:30PM
935 Maple Avenue
Downers Grove
A comedy by Neil Simon, presented by the Grove Players. For tickets call 630-415-3683
www.groveplayers.org

CASA Cares 5K Run/Walk
4/26/09 8:00AM - 10:30AM
67th and Main Street
Downers Grove
Admission: $25
630-221-0889
www.dupagecasa.org

Tails at Twlight
5/8/09 6:00PM - 11:00PM
Dinner/Auction
West Suburban Humane Society
Admission: $75
630-960-9600
www.wshs-dg.org

Friday Night Car Show
5/22/09 6:00PM - 9:00PM
Main Street and Curtiss Street
Downtown Downers Grove
630-725-0991
www.downtowndg.org

In Brief

DOWNERS GROVE

Eby-Brown trucking company offering reward

The Eby-Brown trucking company is offering a cash reward up to $20,000 following the hijacking of a semi and its driver at a Downers Grove gas station earlier this month.

Police said there is a $10,000 reward for information leading to the arrest and conviction of anyone involved with the July 7 incident from the Speedway gas station, 898 Ogden Ave.

The armed hijacker kidnapped the driver of the semi and set him free in Joliet later that day.

An additional $10,000 reward also is offered for information on the return of the Eby-Brown trailer in good condition. The trailer's license plate number is 351 683 S/T.

Anyone with information about the hijacking or the whereabouts of the missing semi-trailer should call Downers Grove Police Detective Robert Jacobs at (630) 434-5653.

8th annual fishing derby set at Barth Pond

The Downers Grove Park District will host the eighth annual fishing derby at Barth Pond in Patriots Park from 9 a.m. to noon Saturday.

The event is free and open to all ages. At the end of the derby, prizes will be awarded in each age division for shortest and longest fish caught.

The Downers Grove Moose Rod and Gun Club and Babich and Associates are co-sponsoring the fishing derby.

Participants ages 16 and older must have a fishing license, which can be purchased at K-Mart, Wal-Mart or Sportmart.

For information, contact the Downers Grove Park District at (630) 963-1300.

Resident to hold signing at local book shop

Helen Holub, author of "Guided by the Spirit," will sign her book at Barnes & Noble in Downers Grove, 1550 W. 75th St., Saturday afternoon.

Holub, of Downers Grove, will sign copies of the book from 1 to 2 p.m.

The book contains poems and short stories which she wrote as a result of the death of two of her children.

Holub is also the author of "Echoes of Love" and is in the process of producing a children's book.

Local News

News tip?
Contact Jonathan Schuler, assistant managing editor | development at jschuler@mysuburbanlife.com or (630) 368-8939

DOWNERS GROVE

Village will be sprayed to kill mosquitoes

By Catherine Leyden
cleyden@mysuburbanlife.com

As temperatures and humidity rise, so does the mosquito population.

The village of Downers Grove will be spraying to kill off adult mosquitoes beginning at 9 p.m. Wednesday.

The insecticide used during the spraying is called permanone and is approved by the Environmental Protection Agency.

The insecticide is naturally found in chrysanthemum flowers, according to village Forester Kerstin von der Heide.

Residents are encouraged to keep doors and windows closed during the night while spraying is taking place because the process does cause an odor.

Von der Heide said during the summer, the village uses tablets containing insecticides to kill mosquitoes at the larva stage.

"We drop tablets into storm drains along the street, and that stops the larvae from developing into adults," von der Heide said.

With some recent rainy weather, the village decided to spray the community to kill adult mosquitoes. The spraying will be conducted by Vector Disease Control.

All streets will be sprayed inside incorporated Downers Grove, and the spraying should be completed by dawn.

Tips for avoiding mosquito bites

- Try to stay inside from dusk to dawn when mosquitoes are the most active
- Wear loose-fitting, light-colored clothing
- Use repellents containing DEET, picaridin or oil from lemon eucalyptus on any exposed skin
- Make sure window screens are tight
- Remove any outdoor containers that collect water
- Change the water in bird baths weekly
- Replace the water in children's wading pools every few days
- Don't let water collect in rain gutters, downspouts or on top of pool covers
- Keep grass cut short

Von der Heide said the spraying is another good tool that can be used to combat mosquitoes.

"With the recent weather, the mosquito population has gotten very large," von der Heide said.

If weather interferes with the spraying, it will be rescheduled for July 31.

For more information, call Vector Disease Control at (800) 413-4445.

snapshots.mysuburbanlife.com/564406
Staff photo by Dennis Sieron

Downers Grove Public Works employee David Drufke drops a tablet down the sewer drain on Monday. One way the village fights mosquitoes is by dropping the tablets that kill mosquito larva into drains. Mosquito spraying will take place in Downers Grove beginning at 9 p.m. Wednesday.

DOWNERS GROVE

Man facing charges makes disturbance at courthouse

By Catherine Leyden
cleyden@mysuburbanlife.com

While standing in line to enter the DuPage County Courthouse on drug charges after being arrested in Downers Grove last month, Marc Mueller caused a disturbance and told sheriff's deputies he had a bomb in his belt.

Mueller, 29, of Palatine is scheduled to be arraigned at the DuPage County Courthouse in Wheaton at 1:30 p.m. Aug. 11.

In addition to the existing drug charges, Mueller now faces disorderly conduct and bribery charges as a result of the incident at the courthouse.

Paul Darrah, spokesman for the DuPage County State's Attorney's Office, said after telling police he had a bomb, he then tried to bribe them into letting him go.

"There was some discussion that he attempted to tell one of the police officers 'I'll give you something if you let me go,'" Darrah said.

Darrah said Mueller caused the scene when reporting to court July 17 on charges stemming from an incident in which Downers Grove police found dozens of Vicodin pills and marijuana in his possession.

Downers Grove Police Sgt. Dave Bormann said Mueller was pulled over in the village at 7:15 p.m. June 11 at Belmont Road and Chicago Avenue for making a lane violation.

Bormann said Mueller was acting suspiciously, and police asked him to step out of the car. A drug dog from the Westmont Police Department was called out to assist in the incident.

"In the center console (of Mueller's car, police) found cannabis as well as the Vicodin," Bormann said.

Police said Mueller had 59 Vicodin pills and 29 grams of marijuana in his possession.

He was charged with possession with the intent to deliver a controlled substance and possession of marijuana.

The Ticker GREGG HOUSE MUSEUM IS HOSTING "MUSIC FUN" WHERE KIDS MAKE A MUSICAL INSTRUMENT JULY 30 >>>

Village of Downers Grove
630.434.5500 • www.downers.us
Mayor Ron Sandack
Commissioners: Martha Schlorff, Martin Tully, William Waldack, Sean Patrick Durkin, Geoff Neustadt, Bruce E. Beckman
Village Manager Cara Pavlicek

The "Village Corner" is edited and published by the Village of Downers Grove. Any questions concerning the content of this page should be directed to the phone number referenced in the article. If a number is not listed in the article, please call the Community Response Center at 434-5511 (2253).

Meeting dates, times, locations and agendas are subject to change. Check the Village website at http://www.downers.us and DGTV Channel 6 for the most current meeting information.

Village CORNER

"Downers Grove Preserves the Balance Between Tradition and Progress"

MAIN STREET CLOSURE
FRIDAY JULY 20, 2007 • 9:00PM TO 1:00AM

Main Street will be closed from Curtiss Street to Burlington Avenue on Friday, July 20, 2007 between the hours of 9:00pm & 1:00am for the Harry Potter Book Release Event. For more details contact Downtown Management at 725-0991.

PLANT SOME ROOTS
SPONSOR A 175TH ANNIVERSARY TREE

Trees have been a part of the Village's history since the moment Pierce Downer settled on the prairie amongst a grove of stately oaks. As we celebrate the 175th Anniversary of our founding, the Village invites residents and businesses to sponsor one of the 175 trees that have been planted to honor this occasion.

Each tree displays a plaque with an historical fact about Downers Grove. The trees are planted at schools, parks and throughout the residential community.

Residents and visitors can learn about our history by taking a tree tour and reading the plaques. A list of the tree locations is available on the Anniversary website, which is linked to the Village website at **www.downers.us.**

Tree sponsors will receive a one-year membership to the Downers Grove Historical Society and recognition at the tree site, as well as on DGTV Channel 6 and on the Anniversary website. They also have the chance to leave a legacy behind for future generations to enjoy.

For more information about the program or to sponsor a 175th Anniversary tree, call (630) 434-5577.

VISIT THE 175 WEBSITE

The Village of Downers Grove is pleased to announce that the 175th Anniversary Celebration website is open for business. A link to the site can be found at **www.downers.us**

Several Anniversary souvenir items are available for purchase on the website including homemade chocolate, apparel and limited edition artwork. Two special blends of table wine were produced especially for Downers Grove for the Anniversary and can be purchased at select retailers.

The website also features a list of events that will take place during the year, as well as information about sponsoring one of the 175 trees that will be planted this spring. Organizations that wish to associate their event with the celebration may petition to do so by filling out an Official Event/Activity form, available on the site.

DOWNERS GROVE POLICE USES IDOT GRANT TO INCREASE DUI PATROLS

The Downers Grove Police Department, using funding from an Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) grant, will increase enforcement efforts related to impaired driving. Using these patrols, two offenders were arrested during the last enforcement period.

Remember: The choice to drink and drive can cause injury or death from a traffic crash.

July 21, 2007

Coffee With The Council - 9:00 a.m. - Farmers' Market, Main Street Train Station

July 23, 2007

Board of Fire and Police Commissioners - 6:00 p.m. - Council Chambers

Agenda Summary

- Disciplinary Hearing Regarding Terrance Luby

July 24, 2007

Village Council Workshop Meeting - 7:00 p.m. - Council Chambers

Agenda Summary

- Place an ordinance amending Planned Development 31, Esplanade, re: Sign variation on the active agenda
- Place a demolition site ordinance amendment on the active agenda
- Place an ordinance amending provisions of the Human Services Commission and the Community Events Commission on the active agenda
- Discuss refuse contract specifications
- Place an ordinance for business license registration on the active agenda
- Place a motion endorsing the US Conference of Mayors Climate Protection Agreement on the active agenda
- Place an ordinance establishing intersection controls on Middaugh Avenue at Franklin Street on the active agenda
- Place an ordinance establishing park zone speed limits on Franklin Street and Linscott Avenue on the active agenda
- Place a resolution submitting the Surface Transportation Program (STP) grant application to the DuPage Mayors and Managers Conference on the active agenda
- Place a motion for the Florence Avenue sidewalk plan on the active agenda
- Place an ordinance establishing parking restrictions on 68th Street on the active agenda
- Place an ordinance establishing temporary road closures during North High School dismissal on the active agenda
- Place a motion re: FY 08 budget schedule on the consent agenda
- Place a resolution for a license agreement for a cell tower on the Katrine Well House on the consent agenda
- Place a motion for a fee waiver request for Gloria Dei Lutheran Church facility at 4501 Main Street on the consent agenda
- Place a motion for a change order for a sidewalk program and crosswalk upgrades on the consent agenda
- Discuss creation of a Housing Ad Hoc Committee
- Stormwater report and recommendations

July 25, 2007

Zoning Board of Appeals - 7:30 p.m. - Council Chambers

Agenda Summary

- FILE NO. ZBA-09-07 A petition seeking a signage variation for property located at the Northwest corner of Ogden and Florence Avenues, commonly known as 310 Ogden Avenue, Downers Grove, IL (PIN 09-04-110-029,-028,-027); Rod Mourad, Luxury Motors, Inc., Petitioner; Abbas Real Estate, LLC, Owner
- FILE NO. ZBA-11-07 A petition seeking a side yard setback variation for an addition to an existing garage. Property is located at the bulb of the Ridgeview Street Cul-De-Sac, approximately 400 feet West of Fairmount Avenue, commonly known as 759 Ridgeview Street, Downers Grove, IL (PIN 09-29-200-008); Steven D. Dubman, Petitioner/Owner
- FILE NO. ZBA-12-07 A petition seeking a sign variation for property located on the North side of Ogden Avenue, approximately 375 feet West of Finley Road, commonly known as 2300 Ogden Avenue, Downers Grove, IL (PIN 08-01-402-003,-004,-005, 08-01-402-012,-013,-014); JK Pontiac GMC Truck, Inc.D/B/A Bill Kay Pontiac Buick GMC, Petitioner/Owner

July 26, 2007

Architectural Design Review Board - 5:00 p.m. - Committee Room

Agenda Summary

- Discuss administration of Historic Preservation Ordinance
- Building Survey Requirements

Village Council Meetings are held the first and third Tuesday of the Month. Village Council Workshop Meetings are held the second and fourth Tuesday of the month at 7:00 p.m. in the Village Hall Council Chambers at 801 Burlington Ave.

Live radio broadcasts of Council Meetings can only be heard at 7:00 p.m. the first and third Tuesday of the month on WDGC-FM, 88.3.

Village Council and Workshop meetings are broadcast live on DGTV-Ch. 6 Tuesday evenings at 7:00 p.m. The rebroadcast of these meetings can be seen Wednesday mornings at 9:00 a.m. and Thursday evenings at 6:30 p.m.

Individuals with a disability requiring a reasonable accommodation in order to participate in any meeting should contact the Communications Office at 630-434-5550, prior to the meeting. Wheelchair access is available through the south entrance of Village Hall.

Village of Downers Grove
630.434.5500 • www.downers.us

Mayor Ron Sandack
Commissioners: Marilyn Schnell, Martin Tully,
William Waldack, Sean Patrick Durkin, Geoff Neastadt, Bruce L. Beckman
Village Manager: Cara Pavlicek

The "Village Corner" is edited and published by the Village of Downers Grove. Any questions concerning the content of this page should be directed to the phone number referenced in the article. If a number is not listed in the article, please call the Community Response Center at 434-CALL (2255).

Meeting dates, times, locations and agendas are subject to change.
Check the Village website at http://www.downers.us and DGTV Channel 6 for the most current meeting information.

Village CORNER

"Downers Grove Preserves the Balance Between Tradition and Progress"

THIS IS THE BIG ONE! 25TH ANNIVERSARY HERITAGE FESTIVAL JUNE 22, 23 & 24, 2007

The first Heritage Festival Street Fair was held Downtown in 1982 to mark the Village's 150th year. In 2007, the show goes on as we celebrate 25 years of the "Best Fest" in the Western Suburbs and Downers Grove's 175th Anniversary.

All ages can enjoy seven stages filled with music and entertainment plus games, rides, food, crafts, and classic cars. Join us with your friends and neighbors for a good old-fashioned time.

For a complete event guide, including show times and performers, visit the Heritage Festival website at www.downers.us

DON'T FORGET TO WATER THE TREES!

All ages and sizes of trees need to be watered when adequate rainfall is not available. Newly planted trees need water the most as they grow new roots and become established in their new environment. The key is keeping soil around the tree trunk moist, and not too wet or too dry. Generally, 1-2" of essential water per week is all that is needed.

The Forestry Division has a device available called a TreeGator®, a 20-gallon plastic reservoir that attaches around the trunk of the tree. The TreeGator® is quickly and easily filled twice a week with a garden hose, and the small holes in the bottom allow water to trickle out slowly, encouraging deep root growth. Residents may have one TreeGator® for each new tree planted in the parkway, and can pick one up from the Public Works Department at no cost. For more information, please contact the Forestry Division at 434-5475.

NEW MEETING TIME

Effective July 3, 2007 Village Council Workshops and Regular Meetings will begin at 7:00 p.m.

Meetings are held on the 1st and 3rd Tuesday of the month.

Workshops are held on the 2nd and 4th Tuesday of the month.

Watch Council meetings LIVE on DGTV Channel 6.

BICYCLE AND UNCLAIMED PROPERTY AUCTION

The Village of Downers Grove will be using PropertyRoom.com to sell our surplus items. A list of unclaimed property is available on the village website at **www.downers.us**. For more information, contact Drup Ingram of the Downers Grove Police Department at (630) 434-5637.

June 22, 23, 24, 2007

HERITAGE FESTIVAL

June 26, 2007

Board of Fire and Police Commissioners - 2:00 p.m.- Council Chambers

Agenda Summary
- Disciplinary Hearing re: Terrance Luby

Village Council Workshop Meeting - 6:30 p.m. - Council Chambers

Agenda Summary
- Place bids for Elmore Avenue water main and skid steer loader on the consent agenda
- Place a motion for Police Department in-car laptop replacements on the consent agenda
- Place a resolution for AT&T easement for Downers Drive on the consent agenda
- Place a resolution for an agreement with the Illinois Tollway on the consent agenda
- Place Historic Preservation ordinance on the active agenda
- Place an ordinance for a special use for an accessory structure at 3702 Venard on the active agenda
- Place an ordinance annexing property at 2428 Burlington, 6138 Boundary and 6239 Springside into the Village of Downers Grove on the active agenda
- Place an ordinance for a final planned development with a variation and a resolution for a final plat of subdivision for Butterfield Square on the active agenda
- Place an ordinance for a special use and a resolution for a final plat of subdivision for World Class Autos on the active agenda
- Place an ordinance modifying ORM districts re: Recycling centers on the active agenda
- Discussion of DuPage Water Commission rebate and rate reduction
- Discussion of Right-of-Way Vacation Policy
- Presentation and motion to waive the one-week waiting period to accept the FY 06 audit

June 27, 2007

Zoning Board of Appeals - 7:30 p.m. - Council Chambers

Agenda Summary
- FILE NO. ZBA-09-07 A petition seeking a signage variation for property located at the Northwest corner of Ogden and Florence Avenues, commonly known as 310 Ogden Avenue, Downers Grove, IL (PIN 09-04-110-029,-028,-027); Rod Mourad, Luxury Motors, Inc., Petitioner; Abbas Real Estate, LLC, Owner

- FILE NO. ZBA-10-07 A petition seeking a side yard setback variation for an addition to an existing house; property located on the East side of Elm Street, approximately 150 feet South of 39th Street, commonly known as 3917 Elm Street, Downers Grove, IL (PIN 09-05-108-004); Dino & Vicky Grano, Petitioners/Owners

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Village Council Meetings are held the first and third Tuesday of the Month. Village Council Workshop Meetings are held the second and fourth Tuesday of the month at 6:30 p.m. in the Village Hall Council Chambers at 801 Burlington Ave.

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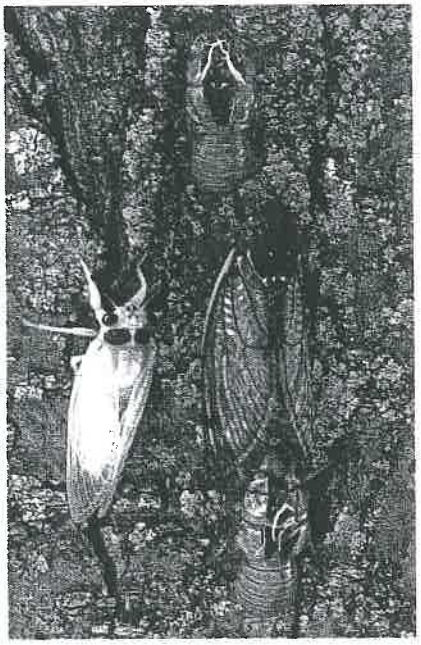
Bug Wars 17: Return of the Cicada



Picture courtesy of Kathy Desmarteau

George Lucas wishes he produced this summer's brood of insect, now playing at a tree near you. The star of the show is the 17 year cicada, whose engagement in Illinois is scheduled to last through early June.

Act I began at the end of May when the brown, immature cicadas first appeared out of the ground and sought out trees, plants and other places to hang from to shed their skin. After awhile, their bodies darkened and their orange-veined clear wings become functional.

In Act II, the adult cicadas, with their characteristic red eyes, will climb or fly into tree tops to begin the mating ritual. The loud, familiar songs of the male are used to attract a mate. Then the females will make slits in tree branches and lay their eggs. Numerous egg-laying slits may cause branch dieback or breakage on some plants, but most recover in a few years.

Cicadas are harmless and only a nuisance for about six weeks, the same as their life span.

For more information about cicadas, visit http://web.extension.uiuc.edu/cicadas/index.html

Stormwater and Flooding Update

A number of efforts are currently underway to address stormwater and flooding issues in the Village.

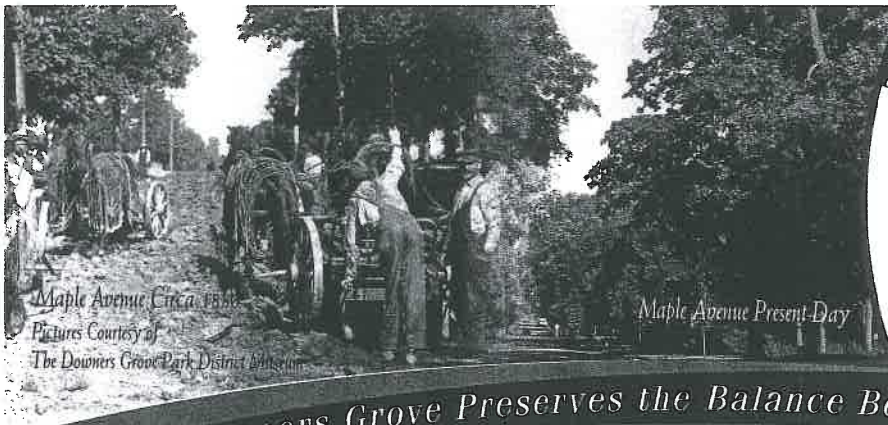
The Stormwater Master Plan serves as the guide to implement a range of drainage improvements in the coming years. More than just a plan to install bigger pipes in the ground, this document outlines a number of proposed enhancements to Village inspection, maintenance, and water quality programs. A new storm sewer jetter/vacuum truck, to be purchased this year, will function as a key tool to achieve these Master Plan goals.

The focus of the Watershed Improvement Plan is the design and construction of infrastructure improvements to the Village's stormwater system. A team of four engineering and natural resource consultants is currently developing proposals. Specific recommendations may possibly include new storm sewer pipes within rights-of-way and the creation of new detention areas. The final report is expected in late July.

Several drainage upgrades are scheduled for design and/or construction in 2007 as part of the Village's Community Investment Program (CIP), which provides dedicated funding for needed stormwater improvements and the other maintenance. The Watershed Improvement Plan report is expected to identify additional projects to be included in the CIP.

One tool used to help combat flooding issues related to development is the Stormwater Permit Program, which has been in existence for decades in various forms. DuPage County and the Village require that all commercial developments greater than one acre in size include detention basins to help reduce flooding problems. Building restrictions in flood-prone areas have also proven to be a cost-effective means to prevent flooding problems.

For more information, see the Village web site at **www.downers.us** or call the Public Works Department at 630-434-5460.



Hometown TIMES

"Downers Grove Preserves the Balance Between Tradition and Progress"

ISSUE 2
2007

Plant Some Roots

Sponsor a 175th Anniversary Tree

Trees have had a place in the Village's history since the moment Pierce Downer settled on the prairie in a grove of stately oaks. As we celebrate the 175th Anniversary of our founding, the Village invites residents and businesses to sponsor one of the 175 trees that will be planted to honor this occasion.

Each tree will display a plaque with a historical fact about Downers Grove. A coloring book depicting a selection of scenes based on these facts will be distributed to local third graders as they complete a unit in Downers Grove history. The trees will be planted at schools, parks and throughout the residential community.

Residents and visitors can learn about our history by taking a tree tour and reading the plaques. A map and list of locations will be available on the Anniversary website. Visit **www.downers.us** and select the 175th Anniversary link.

Tree sponsors will receive a one-year membership to the Downers Grove Historical Society and recognition at the tree site, as well as on DGTV Channel 6 and on the Anniversary website. They also have the chance to leave a legacy behind for future generations to enjoy.

For more information about the program or to sponsor a 175th Anniversary tree, contact Community Events Director Mary Scalzetti at (630) 434-5559.

READ ABOUT...

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Early Voting
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AED's on Patrol
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Phone Scam Alert
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Village of DOWNERS GROVE FOUNDED IN 1832

Plant a "Giving Tree"

"Once there was a tree...and she loved a little boy," begins Shel Silverstein's book, "The Giving Tree." The story follows the boy throughout his life and tells of the many ways the tree gives of itself.

Everyone benefits when trees are planted and abundant. They provide a place of shade outdoors on a hot summer day. They help cool and protect our homes from the effects of the sun. They touch our senses with their beauty and color.

The Village recognizes the benefits of trees in an urban setting and has had an active parkway tree planting program since 1970. Goals of the program include planting a variety of tree species that have long lifespans, are tolerant of urban conditions, and are able to grow such that tree foliage forms a canopy along the streets and sidewalks. Today, the Village's Public Works Forestry Division maintains more than 23,000 parkway trees that beautify the village.

Tree planting occurs each year during the spring and fall seasons. New tree locations are spaced approximately 40 feet in either direction from other parkway trees and 10 feet from driveways in order to allow full canopy development and reduce vision obstructions.

This fall, over 120 new parkway tree plantings are scheduled for October. Any resident who is interested in being considered for a spring planting within incorporated Downers Grove may call the Forestry Division at 434-5475.

In addition, trees may be planted in memory of loved ones or to recognize special events through the Downers Grove Park District's "Sponsor a Tree" program. The Park Forester will work with tree sponsors to choose the parks and specific planting sites for the trees. Sponsors may also purchase engraved plaques for permanent placement at the base of the trees. For information about this program, call the Park District Forester at 630-963-1304.

Salvation Army Donation Day

The Environmental Concerns Commission and BFI are teaming up with the Salvation Army to host a Fall Donation Day. The collection is timed to coincide with Amnesty Day, and will allow residents to donate their unwanted items, rather than having them go to the curb and become landfill.

On Saturday, September 24, between 9:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m., Salvation Army vehicles will be located in the parking lots of Downers Grove North and South High Schools to collect items such as clothing, small appliances or other gently used household items.

This is not a trash collection day. Only items that are in usable condition will be accepted. Collection trucks will be located in the Main Street lot at North High, 4436 Main St., and in front of the visitors area at South High, 1436 Norfolk St.

If you have working large appliances such as washers, dryers, stoves and refrigerators that you would like to donate, please call the Salvation Army at 800.808.7730 to arrange a pick up.

Roll Out Your Advertising Message

Whether you're a new business in town or just want to introduce a new message, logo, or slogan to the public, the Village of Downers Grove has an exciting opportunity to reach the community.

Why not consider advertising on the Grove Commuter Shuttle? These rolling billboards are on the road during peak travel times, moving commuters to and from the Main Street and Belmont Train Stations. Advertising on a panel of the Grove Commuter Shuttle will expose your message to the up to 20,000 vehicles that traverse Main Street each day. Clients may also rent interior space to capture the attention of our shuttle riders and entice them on a daily basis to patronize your business.

Interior and exterior options start at $50 and $100 respectively, for a 30-day period. Advertising on the Grove Commuter Shuttle is affordable, gives your message high visibility, and offers the best value for your advertising dollar.

To learn more about the Grove Commuter Shuttle Advertising Program, contact the Community Response Center at (630) 434-2255.

On bail, ex-chief's son teaches

Father is on college's board that OKd hiring

By Brett McNeil
Tribune staff reporter

As he awaits trial on felony battery charges, the son of former Berwyn Public Safety Director Frank Marzullo is teaching criminal justice classes at Morton College, a Cicero community college where his father is on the board of trustees that voted to hire him.

Jerry Marzullo, 28, began the part-time job teaching "Intro to Criminology" and "Court Procedures and Evidence" this fall, months after he was indicted in connection with the April 5 beating of a man outside a Forest Park steakhouse.

He will earn $3,240 for teaching the three-credit courses this semester, according to figures provided by the college. Marzullo, who holds a law degree from Loyola University Chicago, also is scheduled to teach a "Court Procedures and Evidence" class next semester that will pay him $1,620.

Morton College President Brent Knight said the hiring was "awkward" for the school, but defended Marzullo's credentials as a lawyer and former assistant Cook County state's attorney.

"Technically, he's very well qualified," Knight said. "It was not a political decision in any sense."

But Knight said he was unaware of Marzullo's hiring until after the vote by the board of trustees, including Frank Marzullo, a trustee since 2003. Knight said he doubted that all seven board members knew exactly what they were voting on.

Marzullo resigned after less than a year at the state's attorney's office when he was indicted in April on two counts of felony aggravated battery.

Records show Marzullo and more than 100 other adjunct faculty members were hired in September by the Morton College board of trustees. Frank Marzullo, who also faces felony charges related to the April incident, joined in the unanimous vote to hire his son and the others, records show.

Frank Marzullo could not be reached for comment.

Knight said a faculty coordi-

Tribune photo by Carl Wagner

Holiday hustle

David Drufke (left) and Randy Somersett string lights on a holiday tree Tuesday at the Metra station in Downers Grove. The village will hold a parade and tree-lighting ceremony Sunday.

Doctor sentenced over kid porn

Former pediatrician gets 5 years in prison

By Michael Higgins
Tribune staff reporter

A Chicago pediatrician was sentenced to 5 years in prison

le[illegible]t Edward Hospital in [illegible], apologized in court [illegible] "I regret that I di[illegible]he frame of mind [illegible]d seek help ... [illegible]aid.

[illegible]ist Judge John Gra[illegible]ed [illegible]tzman's crime [illegible]fo[illegible] and said he [illegible]n't [illegible]ve that Watzman's

He bought the images between April and October 2003 and was arrested in an investigation by immigration authorities into child pornography coming into the U.S. via the Internet, prosecutors said.

Assistant U.S. Atty. Monika Bickert argued Tuesday that Watzman deserved more than

DuPage OKs raises real e

By Joseph Sjostrom
Tribune staff reporter

With two dissenting votes, the DuPage County board voted Tuesday to approve a $532 million budget for the fiscal year beginning Dec. 1.

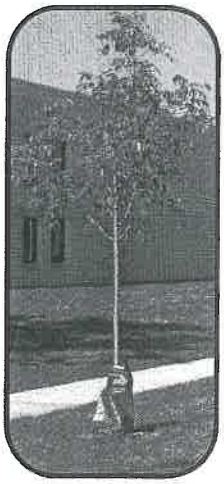
For the first time in 10 years the budget calls for an increase in the real estate tax levy, which will collect about $2.6 million and add about $7 to the annual tax bill of a residence worth $290,000, the average DuPage home value.

Though distasteful even to board members who voted for it, the tax increase was endorsed by an unexpected source, the Civic Federation, a Chicago-based tax watchdog organization. The group's report—its first on DuPage County finances—was released Monday and said the increase appears to be justified by the county's record of no increases for the last 10 years and by other measures, including staff reductions.

But the tax increase prompted no votes from members Brien

Man sentenced for fatally stabb

Don't Forget to Water the Trees!



Watering is in the bag with a Tree Gator®

Cool, clear water. We love it and appreciate it most during those hot and dry summer days. Please don't forget that our trees need water too. All trees need to be watered if adequate rainfall is not available. The key is keeping soil around the tree trunk moist, and not too wet or too dry. Generally, 1-2" of essential water per week is all that is needed. This is approximately 5 to 10 gallons per square yard.

Newly planted trees need water the most as they grow new roots and become established in their new environment. To aid residents who have had a new parkway tree planted, the Forestry Division has a helpful watering device called a TreeGator®. A TreeGator® is a 20-gallon plastic reservoir that attaches around the trunk of the tree. The TreeGator® is quickly and easily filled twice a week with a garden hose, and the small holes in the bottom allow water to trickle out slowly. This encourages deep root growth.

Residents may have one TreeGator® for each new tree planted in the parkway, at no cost. For more information, contact the Forestry Division at (630) 434-5475.

Gypsy Moth

In 2004, areas near Downers Grove will be treated for gypsy moth; the east side of the Morton Arboretum and a small part of Downers Grove at 36th and Fairview.

Gypsy moth eggs hatch into caterpillars in April or early May. Their bodies are covered with black and brown hairs, and a series of five pairs of blue spots followed by six pairs of red spots. The caterpillar stage frequently strips entire trees of their leaves over wide areas. Older caterpillars do the greatest damage during the last two weeks of June.

Burlap bands can help detect the presence of gypsy moth caterpillars. Using burlap and some twine, an artificial hiding place can be created on the tree trunk. The bands are placed about chest high with the upper portion folded down, leaving the burlap slightly ruffled and loose. Caterpillars congregate between the folds of the burlap and the tree trunk. Trapped caterpillars can either be crushed or swept into buckets of soapy water. Bands are put up after caterpillars hatch and are removed as caterpillars change to moths in July.

For more information, contact the Forestry Division at (630) 434-5475. Gypsy moth information is also available on the Village website at:

http://www.downers.us/pubworks/forestry/div/moth.htm

Parking Deck to Open

The Central Business District parking deck is scheduled to open in September. The 762-space facility will serve a mixture of commuter permit, commuter daily fee, and shopper/employee users. Approximately 250 spaces will be provided for each use. The commuter permit fees are anticipated to be in-line with the Village's surface lots as will the employee overlay permits. Shopper parking will be free and limited to three hours.

The facility will have state-of-the-art security and fee collection systems, a special events area, and a unique underground stormwater detention facility.

The deck will help to alleviate downtown parking problems and allow for redevelopment of some of the existing surface lots to residential/commercial uses, thereby expanding the downtown tax base.

Transportation Advisory Commission

On June 1, the Village Council created the Transportation Advisory Commission. This seven-member commission, appointed by the Mayor, will be charged with the following powers and duties as outlined in the ordinance. (Downers Grove Municipal Code, Chapter 2.67 and 2.68)

a. Review and evaluate matters pertaining to the transportation of people and materials within the Village, between the Village and adjoining municipalities and throughout the northeastern Illinois region.

b. Consider transportation and commuter matters including, but not limited to, the Downers Grove bus system, the municipal and Village owned lots and parking deck.

c. Review and/or develop comprehensive plans based upon adopted goals and strategies for the Downers Grove bus system, the municipal parking lots and parking deck.

d. To conduct public hearings on proposed policies and plans when considered necessary by the Commission, Council or as required by ordinance.

e. Supervise and encourage a program of dissemination of information regarding transportation and commuter programs, problems, policies or goals to the citizens of the Downers Grove community.

If you are interested in serving on this commission, call (630) 434-5524 and request a personal profile packet.

Over the past year, the Fire Department answered a total of 1,769 Fire Calls and 3,484 calls for Emergency Medical Services. The department had about 14 calls per day with an average response time of 4:09.

At this time, I'd to thank my fellow Commissioners for the time they spend working for the community.

Like you, I'm looking forward to another great summer of community events including Heritage Festival June 25-27, the USPRO Championship Races August 21 & 22 and the Fine Arts Festival September 11 & 12.

Brian J. Krajewski
Mayor of Downers Grove

Performing Arts Study Commission Underway

The Village Council recently established a Performing Arts Study Commission (PASC) to evaluate the need for a performing arts center in the Village. The 13 members appointed by the Council include residents and representatives from the arts community, school board, Chamber of Commerce, Downtown Management, and the Park District.

The ad-hoc commission will also inventory existing arts venues in the Village, suggest goals, objectives, and uses of a performing arts center, and research proposed locations, ownership, management, and funding alternatives to support the center.

Currently the PASC Commission is working to establish the needs of the community regarding a performing arts facility and will begin by surveying local theater and performing arts groups. If you are a performing arts group interested in participating in the survey, contact Public Information Officer Douglas Kozlowski at (630) 434-5550.

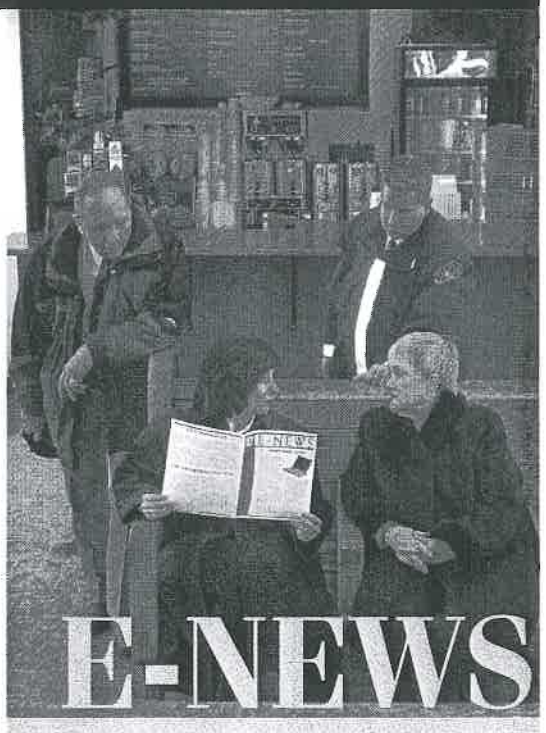
At the conclusion of the commission, a written report will be presented to the Council with their findings and recommendations.

Tips for Trees

Mulching is one of the simplest, least expensive, and most beneficial practices for tree health. Common mulches include woodchips, bark, pine needles, and compost. A 3 to 4 inch layer of organic mulch beneath the tree can enhance root growth, condition the soil, maintain moisture, and help control weeds and grass.

Mulch can be applied anytime of the year. Here are a few tips:

- Do not add mulch to an area where existing mulch is already 4 inches deep. Instead, rake the existing mulch to refresh the appearance.
- Avoid placing mulch against the tree trunk, as this can lead to disease and decay problems. If mulch is piled against the trunk, pull it back several inches so the base of the trunk is exposed.
- The area where mulch is laid should extend out to a tree's drip line when possible. "Drip Line" is a term given to the area under a tree, shrub or plant where it sheds rain or irrigation water. If you visualize an umbrella in the rain, the area where the rain falls to the ground would be the drip line.



Are You Getting It?

Want to be in the know? Get the information edge with E-News, the Village of Downers Grove's electronic newsletter. E-News is sent to subscribers every other Friday and contains information about community events, Village news, meeting agendas, and special notices. Subscribing is as easy as:

1. Log on to the Village website: www.downers.us and click on " E-Services"
2. Click on "E-Newsletter"
3. Add your name and email address and click "Submit"

Join the many others who "get it" and subscribe today.

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Von der Heide cares for village trees

Autumn approaches. The onset of colder weather heralds more than the return to school; it marks the beginning of nature's transition from summer green to the glorious golds, russets and crimsons of fall.

This change is most evident on the leaves of trees, of course, and is but one small aspect of the trees in Downers Grove carefully noted by **Kerstin G. Von der Heide.**

She is well-informed on all aspects of tree life in the village, particularly in parkways, public areas, and in places like Lyman Woods, Maple Grove Forest Preserve and Hidden Lake.

Von der Heide is the head village forester. As such, she does a lot more than admire leaves as they change color. She is ably assisted by an enthusiastic and hard-working staff that consists of assistant forester **Eric Muecke**, landscape specialist **Todd Jacobson**, and maintenance workers **Lou Garbe**, **Brian Jarzynka**, **James Lesnvak** and **Charlie Reed.**

Von der Heide began her career focusing on biology and nature.

"I was interested in how soil and plants interact," she explained.

As a result, she earned a bachelor's degree in soil science and a master's degree in tree physiology and biology, both from Northern Illinois University in DeKalb.

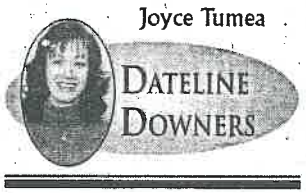
For four or five years during the summers she was in school she worked as an intern at Morton Arboretum in Lisle. She was employed in the research division, where she said she "looked at root systems and how they grow under different conditions."

As a result, she was hired as Downers Grove's assistant forester under then-head forester **Steve Ruffulo**, who is the director of public works operations, she said. She served in that capacity for three years before becoming head forester five years ago.

Her work is multi-faceted. Her department is responsible for maintaining an inventory of trees on village property. Von der Heide is proud that this inventory is now computerized.

"There are over 23,000 public trees, plus some not individually listed but noted as being in wooded areas," Von der Heide noted. "Of these, there are about 107 species, the majority of which are native to North America. Downers Grove also has quite a few trees, which are estimated to be over 120 years old; 73 of these are oaks, which are mostly in the older sections of town between Ogden Avenue and the (Burlington Northern Santa Fe Railroad) tracks."

Joyce Tumea



Many of the village's trees are on parkways, and it is the forestry department's responsibility to monitor them. This is mostly done on a drive-by basis because there are 160 miles of streets lined with trees. When an area of concern is spotted, the staff will get out of their vehicles for a closer inspection.

"No Asian Long-horn beetles have been found in Downers," Von der Heide said. "We do see gypsy moth problems, some pine wilt, oak wilt and Dutch elm disease. While we don't make inspections of private property, people have to know that if a contagious disease is present, they are required by village ordinance to have the infected trees taken care of immediately to halt the disease's spread. Often this does involve the tree's removal."

The forestry department works to keep the public informed on such problems through mailings, brochures and periodic articles in local newspapers or village newsletters. In addition, staff members can be reached by telephone to answer questions and can, when not out in the field, be seen at the office to address tree-related concerns. Questions about private property trees may be deferred to Morton Arboretum staff.

Tree inspections and tree removal are carried out year-round. Tree planting is done in fall and spring, and tree pruning is done in the winter. Tree removal is not limited to diseased trees, Von der Heide explained. Periodically there are trees damaged in severe storms by strong winds or lightning or by the weight of heavy snow in winter. The removal of big trees is handled contractually, she said.

Pruning also may be done to improve visibility for drivers at corners or by stop signs. Home owners may trim village trees when branches obstruct drivers' vision by driveways, for example, but only if the home owners know what they are doing, Von der Heide stressed.

Before possibly damaging or killing village trees, home owners uncertain of proper trimming procedures should call the forestry department or consult literature on the topic from library books, landscapers, nurseries and so on.

"Overall, the tree population in Downers is rising," Von der Heide said. "The removal rate is only 1 to 2 percent per year, so we are planting more than we are removing. Species being planted include oaks and some hybrid elms. Sometimes hybrids will be resistant to one problem but susceptible to another, though.

"We try to mix species up in a planting for variety, for a mix of color, shape and texture. While a street lined with all the same kind of tree can be very pretty, when a problem occurs often the whole street ends up being affected."

Downers Grove, according to Von der Heide, can be proud of its trees. While the village doesn't maintain orchards of fruit trees, its trees provide beauty, shade and habitat for birds and other creatures. Trees also help prevent soil erosion, among other things. Appreciation for tree life in the community is one of the things the forestry department helps foster.

"Eric Muecke, the assistant forester, is in charge of Arbor Day celebrations in town," Von der Heide said. "He will make presentations and oversee plantings at interested schools. Our department also cooperated with a Boy Scout Troop 80 Eagle Scout project at the American Legion Hall, where proper pruning was demonstrated."

Residents do recognize the value of trees, resulting in some controversy periodically concerning building projects, as well as a forestry budget above $2 dollars per capita. Because Downers Grove easily meets this requirement and others, it has the distinction of being named for 15 consecutive years a Tree City USA.

Advanced honors

Debra B. Fettig of Downers Grove earned a doctorate degree from Northern Illinois University in DeKalb.

Her degree is from the College of Education's department of curriculum and instruction. She earned a bachelor's degree in elementary and special education from Quincy (Ill.) University in 1978 and a master's degree in educational administration from NIU in 1981.

Fettig is the principal of Anne M. Jeans Elementary School in Hinsdale. She and her husband, **Paul**, have three daughters, **Maggie**, **Sarah** and **Allison.**

Official welcome

Village officials who joined Noon Lions Club members and new teachers at the club's 67th annual New Teacher Luncheon included Mayor **Brian Krajewski**, Fire Chief **Lanny Russell**, Police Chief **George Graves**, Library Director **Christopher Bowen**, **Vann Bennett** from the Park District, and Chamber of Commerce Director **Barbara Wysocki.**

The event, chaired this year by **Kathy Bosco** and **Maureen McCarthy** from Indian Boundary YMCA, is billed by the Lions Club as the oldest annual event in Downers Grove history.

Miller — Laurence

Ruta — Blough

Welcome to a Circle of Friends

THE STUMP

By Eric Muecke
Assistant Forester, Village of Downers Grove, Illinois

Having worked in municipal forestry departments for over 10 years, I have run into many interesting situations ranging from close calls with wild creatures to finding a resident chained to a diseased elm to prevent its removal. However, on January 29, 1999, I saw something truly amazing. Kramer Tree Specialists had just completed the removal of a 47-inch dbh silver maple in the Village of Downers Grove, Illinois. The tree had been removed because of a decay column. There was a visible hollow 6 to 8 feet above the ground; the hollow was approximately 18 inches wide and the decay had spread down the trunk and into the root crown. After the stump had been flushed, I saw that the decay had left a hollow 1½ feet into the ground. I dug into the stump with a pitchfork and sifted through the debris. In the hollowed-out stump, I found the following:

1 golf club broken into 3 pieces
1 old "ratchet-style" car jack
1 brick
1 plastic putty knife
2 empty bubble mix bottles
1 metal light-switch plate
1 section of orange Hot Wheels race track
1 plastic squirt gun marked 1986
1 squirrel skull
2 empty packs of Camel cigarettes
1 empty pack of Winston cigarettes
1 plastic 6-pack ring
4 golf balls
1 plastic golf ball
1 large jingle bell
1 thermostat
1 automotive wiring harness
1 rubber ball
1 plastic toy boat
4 broken pieces of wooden and metal handles
1 broken broom head
1 short piece of hose
1 pencil eraser cap
2 pull-tab Pepsi cans
1 pull-tab Coke can
1 pull-tab Howdy Cola can
4 cardboard Pennzoil cans
1 pull-tab Red, White and Blue beer can
1 pull-tab Hamm's Draft pint beer can
2 pull-tab Hamm's beer cans
2 pull-tab Old Style beer cans
7 pull-tab Budweiser beer cans
1 Schlitz beer bottle (40 ounce)
13 pull-tab Schlitz malt liquor "shorty" cans and box
10 pull-tab Schlitz pint beer cans
36 pull-tab Schlitz beer cans marked 1962 and 1968

Needless to say, this was one of the most interesting tree removals I have ever been involved in. Even more amazing was that, in spite of all the junk inside the tree, the crew from Kramer Tree Specialists ruined only one chain in flushing the stump.

(Special thanks to Kramer Tree Specialists of West Chicago, Illinois.) AN

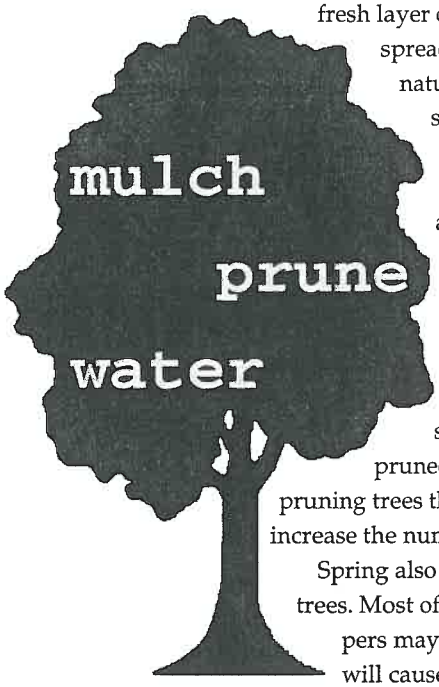
Pluggie's Pals

The Downers Grove Fire Department would like to thank all the boys and girls in the Village who participated in the Pluggie's Pals Program this Winter. The Blizzard of '99 was the second biggest snowstorm in the history of the Chicagoland area. If ever there was a time the firefighters needed help to keep the hydrants clear, it was this year! You all did a great job. We look forward to seeing all of you at the Pluggie's Pals appreciation party with the firefighters this Summer!

Jacob & Luke Baldwin
Maureen Barr
Kimberley Berberich
Hannah Borgard
Kyle & Susanna Brashler
Brownie Troop #578
Blaine Brugh
T. J. Budka
John Caldwell
James, David & Megan Callahan
Tom Callahan
Steven & Audrey Chambers
Amanda Chaplin
Cameron Cheavre
Nicholas Clouston
Joe Cozza
Grant Crist
Melanie & David Crosman
Cub Scouts Den 9 Pack 227
Scott Daly
Dustin Dean
Michael & Jennifer Doornbosch
Chris, Lauren & Mike Dortwegt
Claire & Jane Drews
Douglas & Laura Eldridge
Kurt Ensign
Kelsey, Kara & Molly Kettelhut and Seve & Sammy Esposito
Andrew & Pat Evett
Alex & Jason Galik
Michael, Brian & Jennifer Graham
Natalie & Thomas Hartnett
John Hickey
Margaret Anne Hook
Lauren, Kristin & Taylor Ivan
Lindsey & Samantha Kalmar
Jennie Kamrath
Melissa Kane
Jennifer Kirkpatrick
Zara, Siga & Mantas Kisielius
Stephanie Koblich
Carl & Neil Krause
Calvin, Kyle, Keri & Ryan Kujawa
Kelsey & Joseph Langan
Eric Lederman
Katie & Becky Legel
Matthew & Joe LeMay
Kristen & Brian Lemke
Mitch Manowsky
Sarah M. McDonough
Andrew & Amanda McGlone
Paddy McGuire
Corey McQuarters
Eric & Daniel Meinhart
Danny & Nicholas Mellstead
Roseann & C.J. Montgomery
Jake Myers
Donna & Amanda Nagy
Kevin, Brian, & Matthew Norberg
Caitlin Olewinski
Bryan & Lauren Olsen
Emily & Anna Peckhart
Kristian Peterson
Ricky & Michelle Piatek
Pierce Downer Troop 681
Chelsea, Ryan & Michaela Ponstein
Amanda Pyrcik
Christopher & Matthew Rakow
Peter Rakowski
Danny, Gene & Tommy Riha
Zachary Rogers
Maryann Roman
Nick Rybarczyk
Eric Sabia
Johnny & Becky Schaffer
Tyler Schoolcraft
Dillon & Megan Shoemaker
Stacia & Christopher Simon
Eric & Adam Speechley
Ashley Squitieri
Christopher Stoner
Bradley Stuba
Becky, Jake & John Stupka
Jessica Sutton
Phillip & Jackie Svetich
Andrew & Michael Swanson
Transition House
Webelos Pack 85

Springtime Tree Tips

April showers bring May flowers, but don't overlook the trees. In the spring, trees make a transition from their dormant winter state to the full-leaf summer state. It is possible to get tied up in lawn, garden, and yard work and forget to look after trees. Trees need some extra attention in spring. They should have a fresh layer of mulch or wood chips spread around their trunks. These natural fertilizers break down slowly and provide nutrients to the tree. Mulch and chips also increase beneficial insect and microbe activity in the soil. This loosens the soil and provides better water retention, more aeration, and reduces temperature extremes that may damage small roots. Trees should be pruned when dormant as it is less stressful to the tree. However, pruning trees that flower in the spring at the end of their bloom period will increase the number of blooms the following year.



Spring also brings about the insects, fungus, and bacterium that can affect trees. Most of these pests are merely aesthetic problems. Mites and leafhoppers may eat the emerging leaves. Some fungal and bacterial problems will cause leaves and flowers to fall off soon after emerging. Healthy trees have the ability to put out a new set of leaves and recover from these problems. Therefore, the Village does not spray for these common pests.

Finally, water is an important part of the spring tree care. As people water their lawns and gardens, the common misconception is that the trees are getting plenty of water too. Most of the water that a sprinkler puts out does not make it past the grass roots to the tree roots. Therefore, watering spikes that get the water past the turf is very beneficial to the tree. It is most important to water trees planted in the last 2-3 years as they are still becoming established.

All trees could use some attention in the spring. This should be in the form of mulching and watering, and includes keeping an eye out for signs of pests. When you are working in the yard and enjoying the cool shade of the trees, remember that they could use some springtime attention too.

Tree program seeds future of a greener Downers

by Paul Eisenberg

Dateline: Tree City, USA. Story: The village will celebrate Arbor Day today with a ceremonial planting of a tree.

The above generic line will probably run in some form in just about every newspaper in every community, of course including more *who*, *what*, *when* and *where* details.

In Downers Grove, the line fits. But there's more to the story than one tree, in this case a white ash, being planted in a public area, in this case Belmont Street train station, at a set time, 10 a.m. Friday, April 25, and hosted by public officials, in this case representatives of the village and Morton Arboretum.

Downers Grove officials have actively pursued a wooded landscape, and the village has been designated a Tree City USA community since 1984. The ceremonial white ash is just one of 149 trees that will be planted here this spring, and the newest of 23,134 trees decorating and enhancing the village's parkways and public lots.

Village Forester Kerstin Vonderheide is especially excited about this spring's plantings of 52 new oaks, one of the most durable, long-lasting and expensive trees available.

"It's one of my favorites," she said.

Also among the new, wooden residents of the village are maples and honey locusts, as well as other varieties.

The plantings are part of Downers Grove's Urban Forestry Program, which calls for spring and fall tree plantings as well as the removal of dead, sick or dangerous trees and

Tree

continued from page 1

stumps throughout the village.

Of the trees currently on village-owned property, 40 percent were planted since 1970, when the village forestry program started in earnest.

Technology has caught up with the program, and now Vonderheide has a computer listing of all the village trees and what condition they are in.

Some of the highlights of the village's collection include the largest cottonwood, boasting a 74-inch diameter, near the corner of Rogers Street and Highland Avenue, and a group of large burr oaks on the 4600 block of Oakwood Avenue.

Residents can get a good view of the diversity of trees by taking the Museum Tree Walk, sponsored by the village and the Park District.

The walk, which begins and ends at Wandschneider Park on, appropriately, Maple Avenue, takes about an hour for average walkers to complete, and features 32 different species located on public property.

The tour is outlined in a pamphlet available from the village and can be taken by anyone at any time. Guided versions area available with two weeks notice and as time allows to groups of 10 or more by contacting the forestry division of the Public Works Department at 964-0300, extension 244.

Vonderheide said there is no way of knowing how many people have participated in the tree walk, but almost 1,000 of the guides have been distributed.

"I'm assuming that means lots of people go," she said.

She said the division is planning a sister program to the walk, one that involves a driving tour of the village's vegetation.

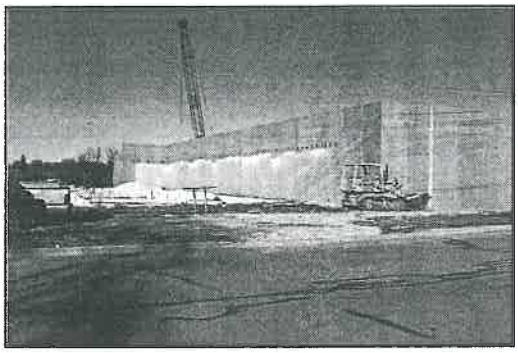
The division is also available for tree health assessments and other services.

Village Forester Kerstin Vonderheide leads a department that is in charge of all of Downers Grove's tree plantings on public property. During last fall and this spring, her department has planted 243 new saplings.

PHOTO BY PAUL EISENBERG

Public Works Facility Under Construction

Ground has been broken and construction is well underway for the Village of Downers Grove's new Public Works Facility. A construction contract was awarded by the Village Council in September to Deerpath Construction of Bensenville for the facility, located on the northeast corner of Curtiss Street and Walnut Avenue. The contract amount of $4,970,000 is $25,000 below the architect's estimate.



The new facility will house the 55 men and women of the Village's Public Works maintenance and engineering staffs in a 13,000 square administration wing. This area is also designed to accommodate a variety of public meetings and training events after hours. Village-owned equipment and maintenance division shops will be located in a 44,000 square foot storage building. From these shops, crews will administer activities related to the water system, storm system, street maintenance, grounds maintenance, traffic sign and signal maintenance and care of our urban forest.

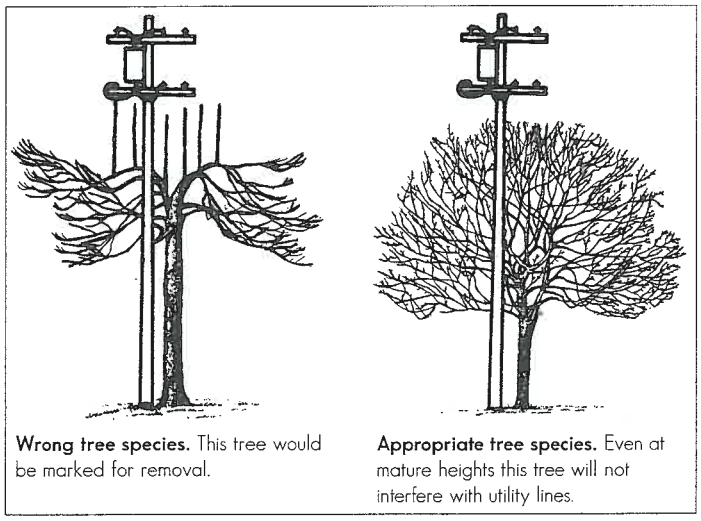
The facility will also include unheated storage for seasonal items and bins for materials such as stone, topsoil and wood chips. Also on site will be salt storage and a fueling facility to accommodate all Village equipment, including Police and Fire apparatus.

The facility is scheduled for completion on November 1, 1997, just in time to administer winter snow removal activities.

cooperative effort

Positive Public Relations

The Public Works Forestry Division and ComEd have a cooperative program which has positive long-term benefits for the Village's parkway tree population while electric service remains top quality and uninterrupted. Some tree species reach mature heights of more than 40 feet. If they are growing near overhead utility lines, branches must be pruned away from the wires to assure consistent electric service. The result is often a disfigured tree that is both unattractive and develops prolific shoots that reenter the wires within a short time. This generally causes negative public relations for the Village and continuous line maintenance headaches for ComEd. To eliminate these obstacles, Downers Grove's Forestry Division and ComEd developed a cooperative tree removal and replacement program.



Wrong tree species. This tree would be marked for removal.

Appropriate tree species. Even at mature heights this tree will not interfere with utility lines.

Various trees, which have been, or will be, pruned for utility line clearance, are selected for removal. Following resident notification, ComEd removes the entire tree at no cost to the Village. If adequate parkway space exists, the Forestry Division chooses an appropriate replacement tree for planting under the wires. Appropriate replacement trees are species with short mature heights, such as a crabapple, which will not interfere with the utility lines in the future. ComEd pays half the cost of tree replacement.

This program is truly a cooperative effort. Besides reduced line maintenance and uninterrupted service, Downers Grove's parkways flourish with attractive trees. For more information, contact the Forestry Division at 434-5475 or 434-5476.

JUNE 27, 28 & 29 1997 Heritage Festival Street Fair

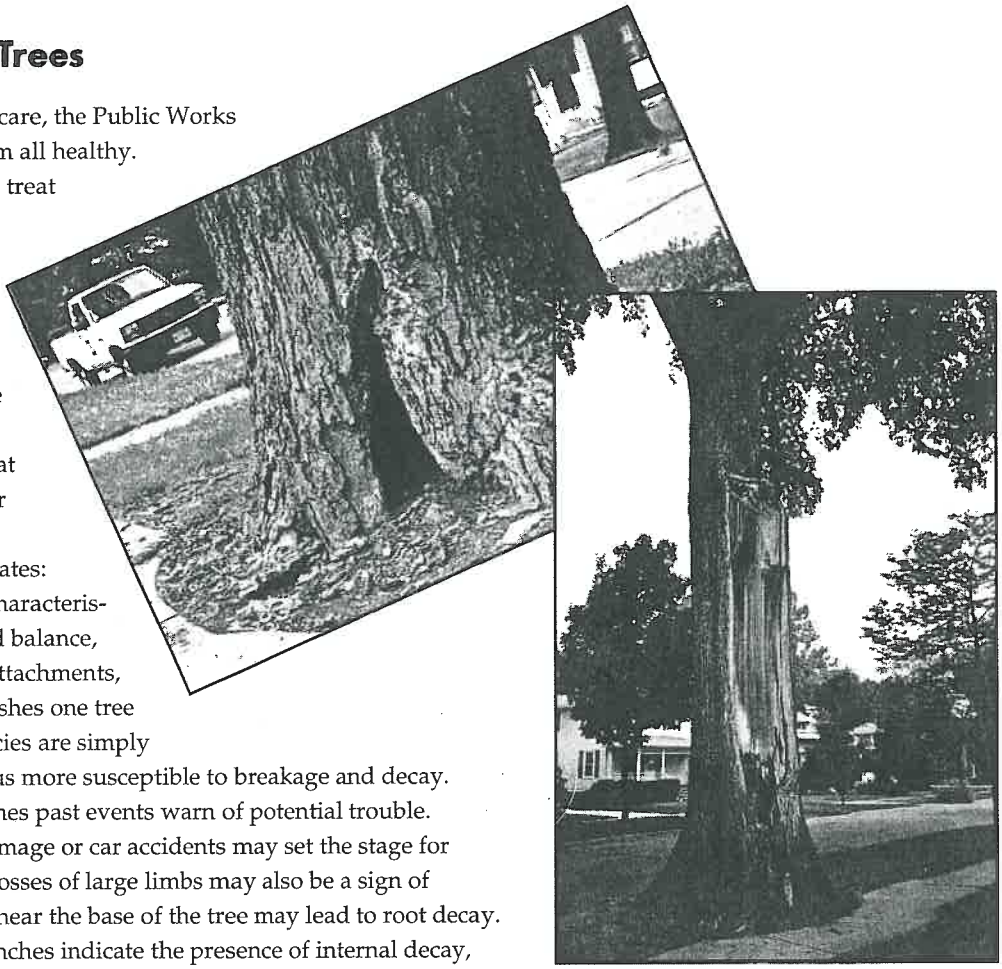
Applications are being accepted for Street Fair vendors, Arts In the Park and the Car Show.

Discounted amusement ride tickets go on sale June 1. A forty-ticket sheet will sell for $18 until June 25. The same sheet will sell for $25 at Heritage Festival.

Exposing our Hazardous Trees

With 22,855 parkway trees under its care, the Public Works Forestry Division stays busy keeping them all healthy.

One primary task is to recognize and treat hazardous trees. A hazardous tree has a structural defect that may cause the tree or a portion of the tree to fall, hitting someone or causing property damage. When a hazardous tree is recognized, the forestry staff analyzes the tree in its setting, considers the risks and benefits, and carefully plans for action that may prevent or correct hazards whenever possible.



The Public Works Forestry Division discovers hazardous parkway trees.

Each inspection systematically evaluates:

- The tree species—specific characteristics such as the crown shape and balance, the angle of individual branch attachments, and the rate of growth distinguishes one tree species from another. Some species are simply more brittle than others, and thus more susceptible to breakage and decay.
- The tree's history—sometimes past events warn of potential trouble. Previous injuries from storm damage or car accidents may set the stage for decay. Seemingly unexplained losses of large limbs may also be a sign of internal problems. Disturbance near the base of the tree may lead to root decay. Hollow points in stems and branches indicate the presence of internal decay, but the tree is not automatically unsafe. The amount of sound wood remaining is compared to the amount missing as a result of decay.
- The tree's vigor—branches are examined to determine how many are dead or dying. The amount of leaf cover and leaf size, as well as color and condition, are compared with other trees of the same type and size.

Each identified hazardous tree is pruned of dead limbs, watered, and fertilized to increase vigor. The condition of the tree is placed in the computer tree inventory program and closely monitored to make sure the tree does not eventually warrant removal. Trees are removed only as a last resort.

Specific questions regarding any parkway trees will be addressed by calling the Forestry Division at 964-0300 extension 244.

The Village of Downers Grove Salutes the Downers Grove Park District

1946-1996

Celebrate Arbor Day
April 26, 1996

Brush Piles & Yard Waste

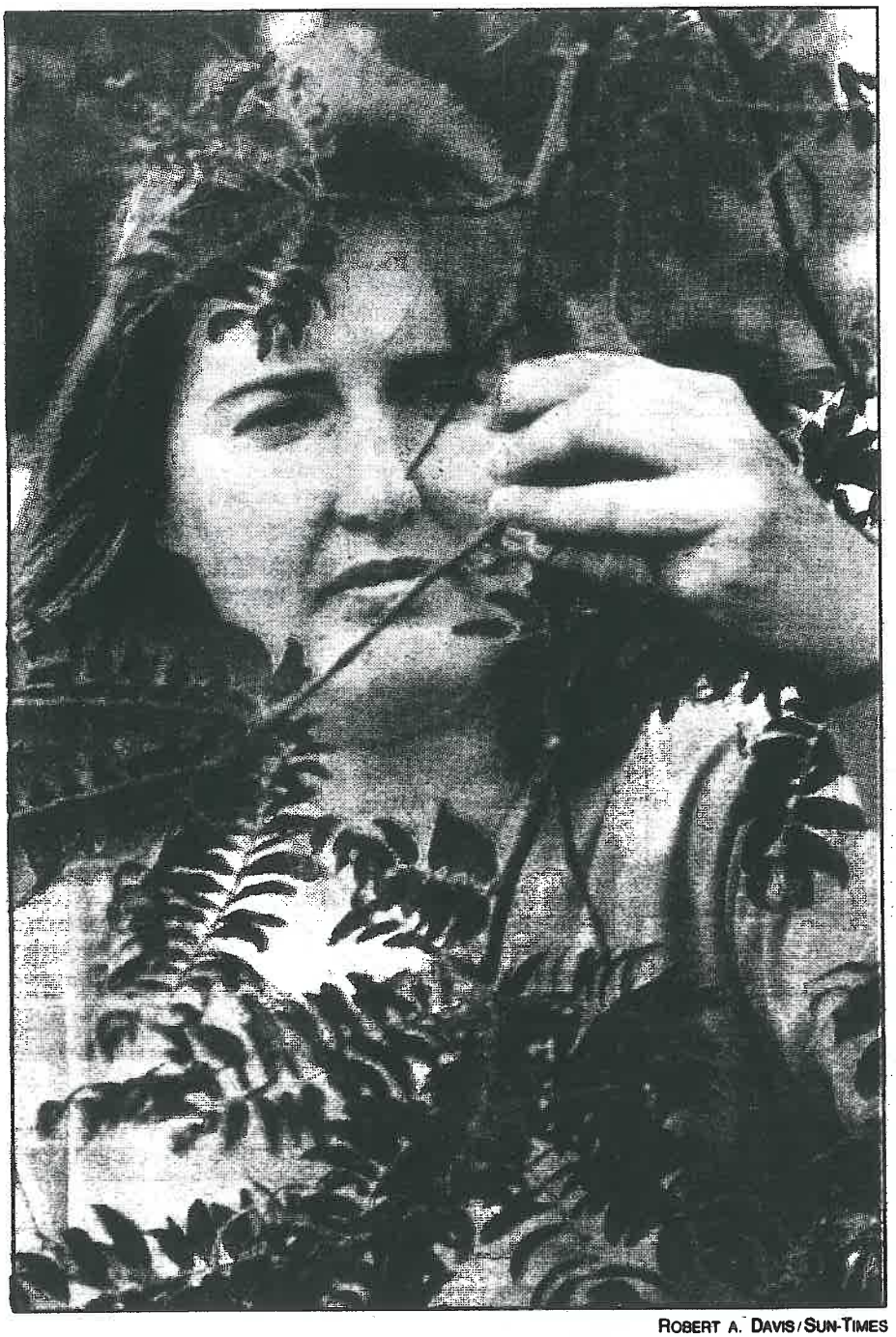
High winds, heavy snowfall and freezing rains over the winter months result in an accumulation of broken limbs and large branches by the time spring arrives.

Brush Piles

Between May 1 and November 30, brush piles are regulated under the Municipal Code for location, size, and contents. A legal brush pile consists of only brush and tree clippings. The pile cannot be located less than 35 feet from any neighboring dwelling unit and not less that 10 feet from any rear or side lot line. A brush pile cannot exceed 32 feet in total ground or base area.

continued on next page

Curbside yard waste collection begins April 1 and ends December 15 each year.



ROBERT A. DAVIS/SUN-TIMES

Forester Kerstin von der Heide examines an ailing honey locust tree.

TREE TRAUMA

An insect infestation has taken a toll on honey locust trees, especially in the northern and western suburbs.

Story, Page 17

METRO

Bug Boom = Barren Branches

Honey Locust Trees Likely To Survive

BY ALF SIEWERS
STAFF WRITER

Honey locust trees around the Chicago area have been hit by the worst infestation of honey locust plant bugs in recent memory, leaving some streets denuded of leaves, local arborists say.

The trials of the honey locust, among the most popular tree selected in recent decades to replace disease-ravaged American elms on local streets, illustrate again the dangers of relying too much on certain types of trees for shade, experts say.

But the current infestation is nearing an end and the trees should survive.

A stressful, wet, cold spring, and a sudden hot, dry transition to summer probably added to the problem, said George Ware of the Morton Arboretum in Lisle. Other trees, such as crabapples, have been hit by weather-related leaf loss, he said.

"This has been a springtime for serious insect and fungal attacks," Ware said.

Kerstin von der Heide, village forester in Downers Grove, said, "We have over 2,700 honey locusts, and all of them show some signs of this insect, and there are several hundred that have been completely defoliated ... some streets that are solid honey locust right now are still bare."

The narrow green bug that causes the problem likes to draw sap from honey locust leaves while the bug is growing to maturity, a process that has just about ended, Ware said.

"We don't understand the combinations of circumstances that produce such huge numbers [of bugs]," Ware said. "Chances are that we won't repeat the numbers of this year, but sometimes cycles last two or three years."

The only possible long-term harm to the trees could come if they receive additional stress from harsh weather and a repetition of the infestation next year, Ware said.

However, Ware advised that spraying the trees with pesticides next spring should only be a last resort. If bugs are noticed next spring, an arborist should be consulted before any action is taken, he said.

Most of the problem has been confined to the western and northern suburbs, said Stephen Bartram, urban forestry manager of the Open Lands Project. His own survey of honey locusts in the central part of the city—where they are popular for their hardiness and lacy leaves—showed no problems.

Many crabapple trees in the area have been hit by a fungus, said Karen Nowacki, director of the city of Chicago's Greenstreets program. The best help is simple maintenance, such as watering trees in dry weather. "If you can maintain the tree and keep its strength up, that's the important thing," she said.

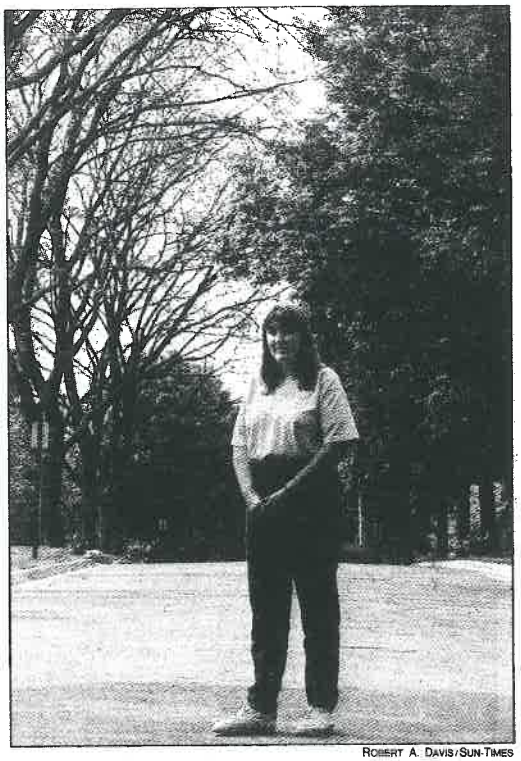
Many municipalities have their own arborists on staff to help residents with information, and the Morton Arboretum has an afternoon clinic that dispenses advice.

As for the honey locust, "people shouldn't despair," Ware said. The tree was originally native to the region and grew strong while flourishing in eroded natural areas, he said. "It's a very tough tree."

TREE ADVICE

If you need advice on tree issues, the Chicago Department of Environment has a free booklet called "City Trees." The booklet, which is available at public libraries, includes a list of public resources for help with trees.

The Morton Arboretum plant clinic can be reached from 1 to 4 p.m. Monday through Friday at (708) 719-2424.



ROBERT A. DAVIS/SUN-TIMES

Kerstin von der Heide stands in the middle of Lyman Street, where defoliated honey locust trees stand near Norway maples.

With Help, Oaks Make Comeback

Many people believe oaks are the most magnificent trees of northeastern Illinois.

Oak groves in forest preserves here are likened to natural cathedrals by hundreds of volunteers who are helping to restore them, using fire as Indians did.

But remnants of oak woods also linger in historic city neighborhoods and in the suburbs, and a new generation of landscape architects, homeowners and officials is working to renew them.

"Up and down the North Shore now you'll find city foresters putting burr oaks in ... nurseries are growing them, and they're selling like crazy," said Stephen Christy, executive director of the Lake Forest Open Lands Association.

Christy describes a change in attitude: Sterile post-World War II lawns didn't provide nutrients oaks needed. Now, according to Christy and tree expert George Ware of the Morton Arboretum in Lisle, more people are working to mulch land around oaks and create a naturalistic environment with acidic soil.

Lake Forest-based landscape architect P. Clifford Miller hopes to renew oak stands at Lake Forest College. Last year, the majority of trees that Wilmette village arborist Don Gustafson planted were oaks.

Possibility Place Nursery in Monee, owned by Connor Shaw, is supplying trees for the resurgence using new techniques that help them survive. Open by appointment only, the nursery sells eight varieties of oaks, ranging from $80 to $140 each.

Alf Siewers

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• Additional Security For Your Family
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SPRING STREET BREWING

Microbrewer Spring Street Brewing Company is publicly offering 2.7 million shares of common stock. The stock is being offered at $1.85 per share, with a minimum purchase of 150 shares.

Spring Street Brewing is an American craft brewer of classic Belgian recipe beers including Wit and new Amber Wit.

Potential buyers can obtain an official offering circular by contacting the brewery directly at 800-948-3432.

Read the offering circular carefully before you invest.

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(708) 430-7990
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Chicago-4235 S. Kedzie
Oak Lawn-6615 W. 95th
Hillside-11055 Roosevelt
Elk Grove-2300 E. Higgins

APPENDIX 3

Additional Municipal Codes and Village Regulations

ADDITIONAL MUNICIPAL CODES

Additional Municipal Codes can be found at the following website:
http://www.downers.us/govt/municipal-code

Pertinent ones include

1.15. General penalty for ordinance violation
http://www.downers.us/public/docs/code/Chapter01.pdf

7.1400. 2006 International property maintenance code adoption
7.1401. Amendments
Section 302.4 maintain free from weeds or plant growth in excess ten (10) inches
Section 302.4.1 landscaping restrictions
http://www.downers.us/public/docs/code/Chapter07.pdf

13.18. to 13.14. Mosquito control
http://www.downers.us/public/docs/code/Chapter13.pdf

13.15. to 13.19. Certain plant growth declared nuisance
http://www.downers.us/public/docs/code/Chapter13.pdf

13.41. to 13.49.5. regarding landscape waste and compost
http://www.downers.us/public/docs/code/Chapter13.pdf

Village of Downers Grove
Administrative Regulation Issued by Village Manager

Description: **Procedure for Issuing Administrative Citations**

Manager's Name: **David Fieldman, Village Manager** Effective Date: **9/1/19**

Category: **Legislative and General Management**

____ New Administrative Regulation

X Amends Previous Regulation Dated: **6/15/05; 2/25/94; 9/12/94**

Description of Previous Regulation (if different from above):

PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy-procedure statement is to provide interdepartmental procedures for implementation of the administrative citation ordinance and collection of the fees assessed thereunder.

AUTHORITY TO ISSUE CITATIONS

Under Section 1-16(i) of the Downers Grove Municipal Code, the following persons are granted the authority to issue administrative citations: police officers, fire department inspectors, code enforcement officers, and such other persons as designated by the Village Manager. Other Village personnel hereby designated to issue administrative citations shall include: water department personnel, the Public Service Response Team, the Village Forester and the Assistant Village Forester, and Community Service Officers. However, the jurisdictional powers of certain authorized personnel shall be limited to those sections of the Downers Grove Municipal Code listed in Section 1.16.

ISSUANCE OF CITATION

The citation shall be completed by the issuing personnel who shall then personally serve the citation on the person responsible for the violation, or his agent, representative, independent contractor or employee. If that person cannot be located, the citation may be served by posting a copy at the property, structure, or vehicle where the violation occurred and sending a copy by U.S. mail to the last know address of the offender. The copy of the citation marked "Accounting or Records Department Copy" shall immediately be forwarded to the Finance Department by the issuing department. THE PERSON ISSUING THE CITATION SHALL NOT ACCEPT PAYMENT FOR THE CITATION - all payments must be processed through the Finance Department or Police Department.

FINANCE DEPARTMENT PROCEDURES

When payment is received, the Finance Department shall indicate on the citation that it has been paid. The citation shall then be returned to the issuing department to be maintained in its files. When payment is made at the front counter, the date of issuance shall be checked to determine if payment is being made within ten days (start counting the day after the ticket was issued). If not, the higher fee shall be charged as shown on the

ticket. If payment is not received within thirty days of issuance, the citation will be returned to the issuing department noting on the citation that it has not been paid.

ISSUING DEPARTMENT PROCEDURES

When the citation is forwarded to the Finance Department, the issuing department should note on its files (or somehow log in) the date of the eleventh day after issuance of the ticket. If the Finance Department does not return the citation marked "paid" by that date, the issuing department shall mail the "Late Payment Notice" to the Offender. (The "Late Payment Notice" is part of the citation and can be found in the citation books.) After thirty (30) days, if the citation is returned unpaid by the Finance Department, the issuing personnel shall proceed to file a formal complaint in the Circuit Court on the original violation for which the administrative citation was issued (the date of violation on the complaint should be the same date of violation shown on the citation). The formal complaint should be filed even if the original violation has been rectified.

FILING OF FORMAL COMPLAINT IN THE CIRCUIT COURT

The issuing department can choose to file a formal complaint in the Circuit Court on the original violation at any time prior to payment of the citation (for example, it becomes clear within days of issuance of the citation that the offender will not pay the citation and/or correct the violation). Please note that once the citation is paid, a formal complaint cannot be issued on the original violation. However, if the Offender pays the citation, but still refuses to comply with the ordinance, a formal complaint should be issued for the subsequent continued violation (remember that it is a separate offense for each day the ordinance violation occurs).

Once a formal complaint is filed, the Offender can no longer pay the citation as the matter will now be decided in the Circuit Court. Therefore, the issuing department should immediately contact the Finance Department to pull the citation if it has not already been returned to the department. Finance should not accept any payments unless it has a copy of the citation from the issuing department. Finance SHALL NOT accept payment just because the person has the original citation. If Finance does not have a copy from the issuing department, it shall confirm the status of the citation with the issuing department before accepting payment. (It is imperative that the issuing department forward the citation to Finance immediately upon its issuance and pull the citation at once upon filing a formal complaint in the Circuit Court.)

QUESTIONS/DISPUTES

If the Offender has any questions, comments, or complaints about the citation, they should be referred to the issuing person or department. If the violation is in dispute, the Offender could refuse to pay the administrative citation and a formal complaint in the Circuit Court will subsequently be issued because of this nonpayment. The Offender will then have an opportunity in court to contest the violation.

PAYMENT

Payment of the citation can be made at Village Hall or at the Police Department. Payments can also be made by depositing payment in the drop box, which is emptied daily, or U.S. mail (postmarked date will be used as receipt date).

USER-FEE, LICENSE AND FINE SCHEDULE

The most current User-Fee, License and Fine Schedule Administrative Regulation can found at the following link: http://www.downers.us/govt/municipal-code

APPENDIX 4

Forestry Grounds Equipment

EQUIPMENT MAINTENANCE

The Forestry and Grounds Division has a wide variety of vehicles and equipment.

An inventory list is kept of all the vehicles and equipment. Fleet Services repairs all the vehicles (oil change, tune-ups, engine repairs, etc.) while the division employees maintain the fluids, and perform general exterior and interior care. Small equipment such as mowers and chainsaws are serviced and maintained by the division employees. Safety training videos are available for several items including the chipper and bobcat, which staff reviews annually. Records for safety reviews are kept in the forestry office.

The following page lists the vehicles and equipment.

Forestry Grounds Equipment

UNIT #	PRODUCT		
182	FORD ESCAPE		
184	FORD pickup		**PRODUCT**
216	Crewcab		Honda Water Pump - 7/05 (231)
248	CATERPILLAR LOADER yr04		Honda Water Pump - 6/05 (300 gallon tank)
242	2014 MAC 5 TON		Honda Water Pump - 11/03 (276)
250	2012 Ford F450 w/ box and lift		Honda Water Pump - 5/02(backup)
251	2012 Ford F450 w/ spreader		Honda Generator - 08/2003
256	CNG Ford		Generator EG5000 - 8/2006
292	INTL STELLAR 99		GUM BUSTER
294	INTERNATIONAL 5-TON		
283	FINN T90 HYDROSEEDER 97		6 PRESSURE WASHER 2500PSI
201	MORBARK BEEVER CHIPPER 2011		
293	VERMEER 1230A CHIPPER 3/99		
89	NEW HOLLAND SKIDSTEER		
	PRODUCT		
	3 ECHO PB 1000 BLOWERS		**PRODUCT**
	3 ECHO PB200 BLOWERS		3 TORO CCR POWERLITE SNOW BLOWER
	1 ECHO SHRED & VAC		TORO SNOW THROWER
	3 EHCO BACKBACK BLOWERS		
	1 STIHL 044 WITH 26+"bar		
	4 STIHL HT 75 POWER PRUNERS W/ 12"bar		
	7 HUSQVARNA 345 with 18" bar		
	5 HUSQVARNA 357 with 18" bar		**OTHER EQUIPMENT**
	4 HUSQVARNA 338xpt		1325 gal water tank
	2 STIHL 362 with 20" bar		1300 gal water tank - 81" by 67"
	2 STIHL 261 with 18" bar		500 gal water tank
			300 gal water tank
	PRODUCT		WESTHEFFER 150 Gal. Tank Sprayer
	RYAN LAWNAIRE 5 AIRATTOR		
	RYAN SOD CUTTER		Samll hand and power tools
	SNAPPER EDGER ET 300		Hand Pruners
	TRENCHMASTER		Shovels
	HONDA COUNTER-ROTATING TILLER		Rakes
	BILLYGOAT VACUUM KD511-SP		Diameter Tapes
	ECHO TILLER CULTIVATOR		
	PRODUCT		
	JOHN DEERE JX75 21" Mower		
	TORO PROLINE 36" MOWER		
	TORO PROLINE 44" MOWER		
	PRODUCT		
	4 ECHO SRM 2100 STRING TRIMMER		
	1 ECHO SRM 2301 STRING TRIMMER		
	2 ECHO SRM 2400 STRING TRIMMER		
	1 ECHO SRM 3001 STRING TRIMMER W/ BLADE		
	3 HUSQVARNA 325 LX TRIMMER		
	ECHO HC 1500 20" HEDGE TRIMMER		
	ECHO HC 1500 24" HEDGE TRIMMER		
	STIHL HEDGE TRIMMER		

APPENDIX 5

Chicago Region Trees Initiative

CHICAGO REGION TREES INITIATIVE

The Chicago Region Trees Initiative (CRTI) is a partnership for coordinated action on key issues facing trees. The following pages highlight CRTI and a Downers Grove forest canopy summary.

More information is available at http://chicagorti.org/

ABOUT CRTI

Chicago's regional forest is a critical asset that needs our protection. Trees clean our air and water, reduce flooding, improve our property values, create habitat for wildlife, and provide significant social and health benefits. In short, trees improve our quality of life.

But our trees need our help. They face threats such as invasive plants, including buckthorn and honeysuckle; the death of ash trees due to emerald ash borer; and a lack of funding for proper tree care. These issues are having significant impacts on the health and survival of our regional forest.

The Chicago Region Trees Initiative (CRTI) is a partnership for coordinated action on key issues facing trees. It is the largest such initiative in the country, with leading organizations and agencies from across the seven-county metropolitan region working together. CRTI is leveraging funding, knowledge, skills, and expertise to build a healthier, more diverse regional forest.

ABOUT CRTI

ABOUT CRTI

A VISION WITH OUTCOMES

INTERACTIVE MAP

PARTNERS AND COLLABORATION

MISSION AND HISTORY

CRITICAL ISSUES

EVENTS

GET INVOLVED

DONATE

NEWS

PROGRAMS

SEARCH RESOURCES

RECENT NEWS

Campaign to Restore Blue Island Tree Canopy Shovel Ready

Kolmar Awarded Grant for Tree Planting

LEARN MORE

OUR IMPACT

Our goal is to make a significant, measurable improvement to the regional forest and the lives of its inhabitants by the year 2050.

LEARN MORE

LEAD PARTNERS

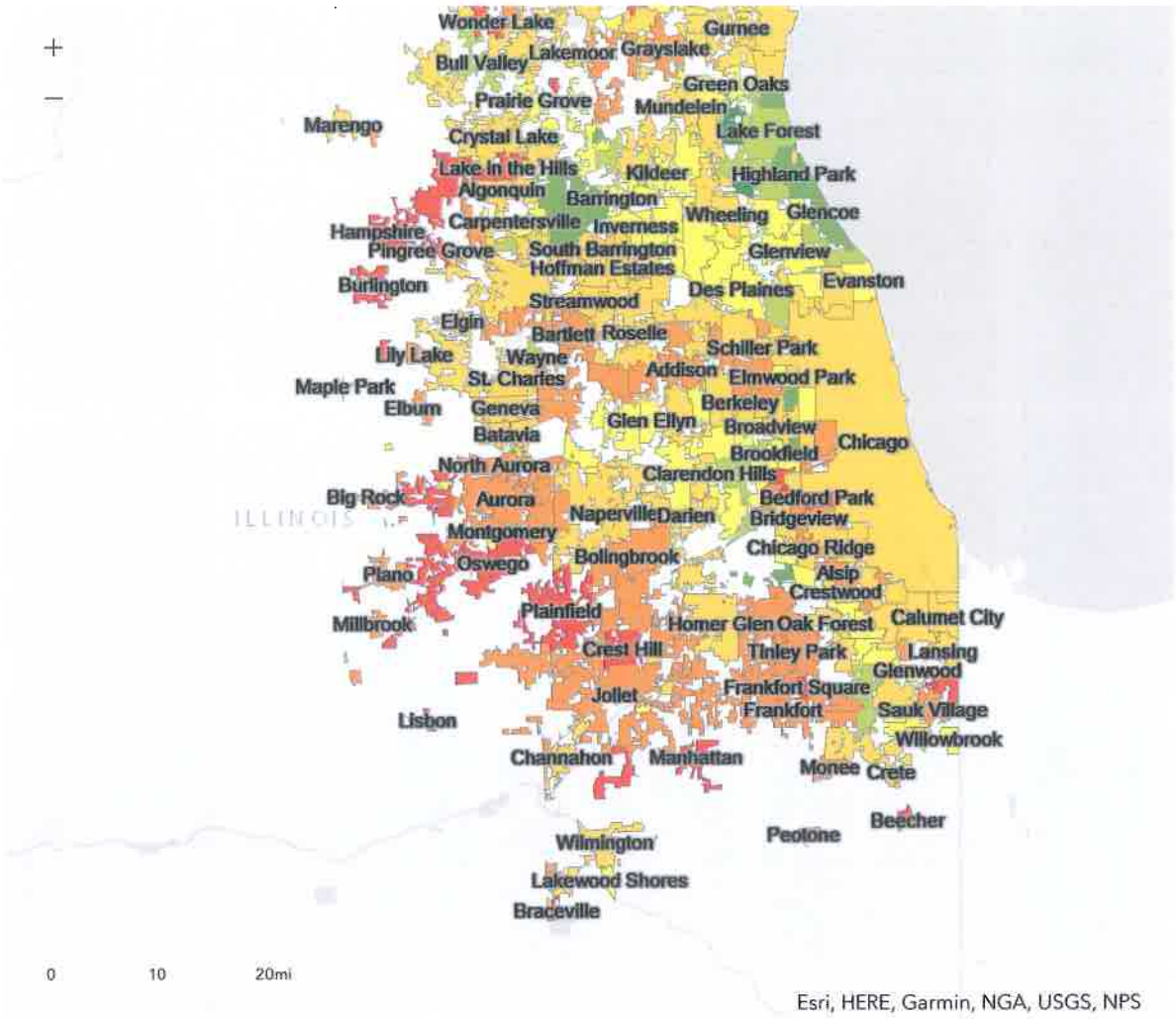
The Morton Arboretum, Openlands, Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning, Chicago Park District, Forest Preserves of Cook County, Illinois Arborist Association, Illinois Green Industry Association, Illinois Landscape

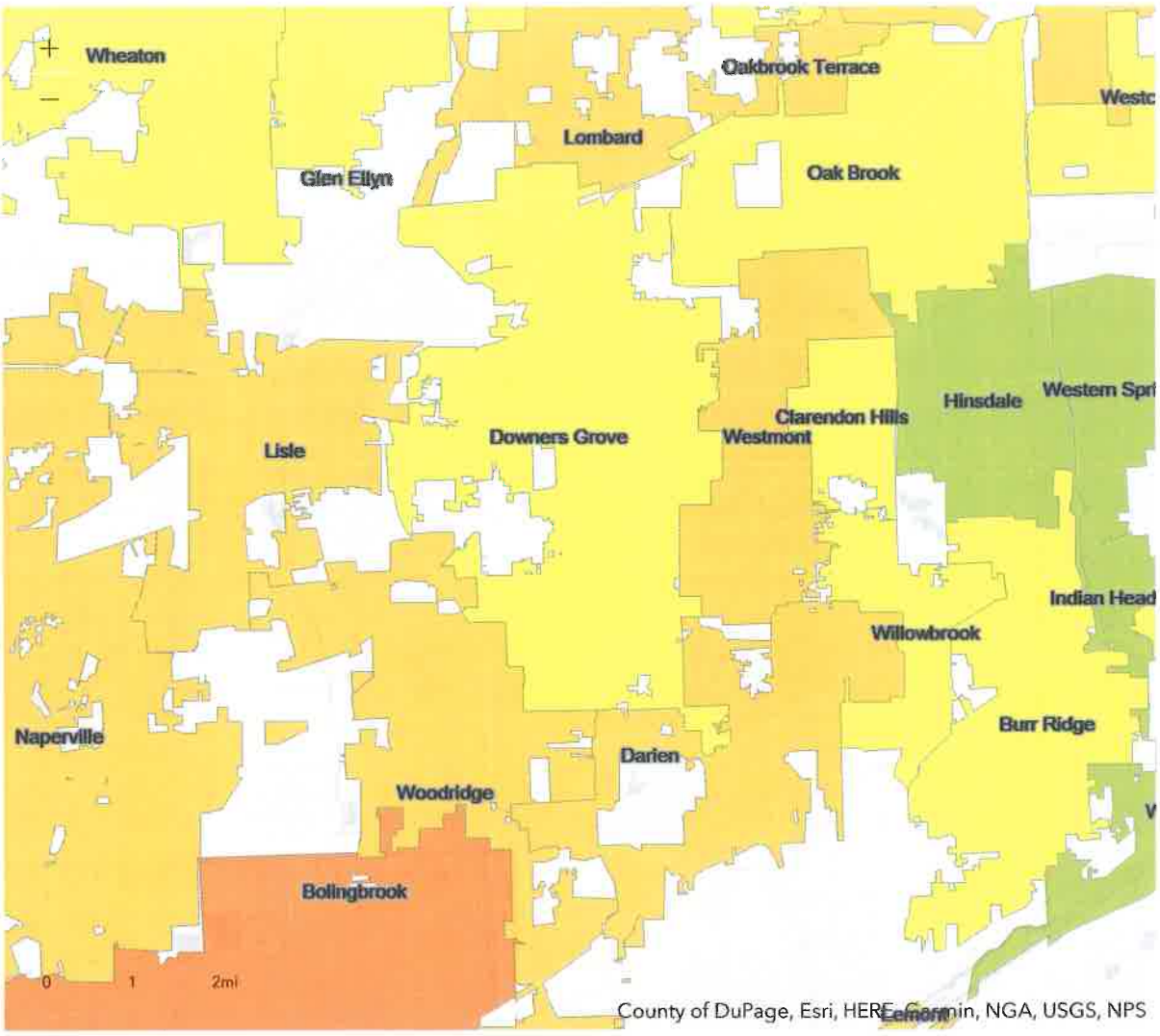
URBAN TREE CANOPY (UTC) ANALYSIS

The Urban Tree Canopy (UTC) analysis conducted the University of Vermont, and supported by the USDA Forest Service, The Morton Arboretum, and American Forests used high-resolution LiDAR imagery to quantify and map the regional forest and canopy in detail. The region wide data of the urban tree canopy analysis allows stakeholders across all seven counties to understand their forest and make detailed goals for future forest structure and composition across different land uses.

Learn more about Urban Tree Canopy Assessments here.

You can view the municipal canopy summary for your community here





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LEARN MORE

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LEARN MORE

CONTACT US

CRTI
c/o The Morton Arboretum
4100 Illinois Route 53
Lisle, IL 60532

Downers Grove Urban Forest Summary

The Chicago Region Trees Initiative (CRTI) goal is that, by 2050, the Chicago Region will support and host a healthier urban forest, comprised of a diversity of tree species and ages, appropriately distributed across land use types in the region. The forest will provide the region improved environmental, economic, and social benefits. In order to achieve that goal CRTI works with a wide variety of people who work with and manage trees. This document is intended to help municipalities understand their urban forest, and identify strategies that they can use to make it better.

The *urban forest* is comprised of all of the trees in an urban setting, regardless of who owns or manages them. It is made up of street trees, forested natural areas and even the trees in resident's back yards. These trees are all included in the urban forest, because they all provide benefits that municipalities depend on. They improve air and water quality, reduce flooding and the urban heat island effect, and reduce energy use by shading buildings. Trees provide habitat for wildlife and improve residents' quality of life by reducing crime rates, increasing property value and boosting social cohesion in neigborhoods.

The magnitude of benefits that trees provide correlates with the size, structure and location of their canopy. Understanding the extent of tree canopy is critical for urban planning. Canopy maps can be used to quantify the benefits that their trees provide, identify where new plantings would have the greatest impact and to develop priorities and strategies for expanding the canopy.

The Chicago Region Trees Initiative, USDA Forest Service, American Forests, and the University of Vermont mapped land cover across the seven-county Chicago Region. This project not only identifies tree canopy, but also other green infrastructure including vegetation under 10 feet tall, bare soil and water; and gray infrastructure including buildings, roads and rail and other paved surfaces like sidewalks and parking lots (Fig. 1). Here after, these seven layers will be referred to as *land cover types*.

Fig. 1: Comparison of satellite image and land cover map. Seven types of gray and green infrastructure are in the land cover map.

Downers Grove Urban Forest Summary

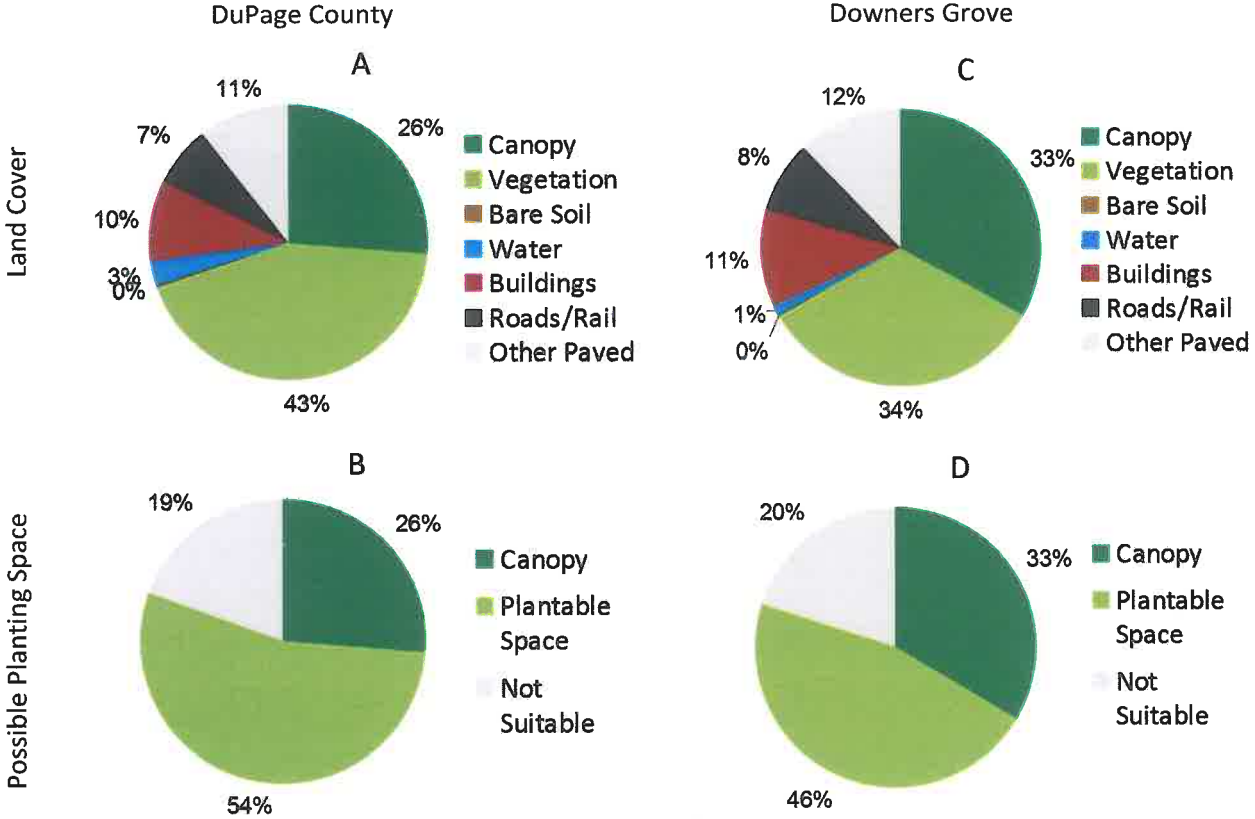

Fig 2: DuPage County's current land cover (A), including 26% canopy cover. An additional 54% of the county is suitable for planting (B). Downers Grove currently has 33% canopy cover (C), and 46% of the land cover could potentially be converted to canopy (D).

Overall, 26% of DuPage County is covered by tree canopy (Fig. 2). There is a lot of room for growth across the county. We can identify spaces where trees could potentially be planted by adding together the vegetation, bare soil and other paved surface land cover types, as these land cover types could be converted to canopy with minimal effort. In all, these land cover types make up 54% of the county's area, meaning that canopy cover could potentially be raised to 83% if all of these surface were converted to trees. It is important to note, that while these surfaces could theoretically be covered with canopy, it is not necessarily preferable. Agricultural fields and baseball diamonds are included as "plantable space," but few would agree that these are ideal sites to expand the forest canopy.

These land cover data can also describe canopy at the municipal scale. Downers Grove currently has 33% canopy cover, and could potentially increase their canopy to 80% (Fig. 2).

Downers Grove Urban Forest Summary

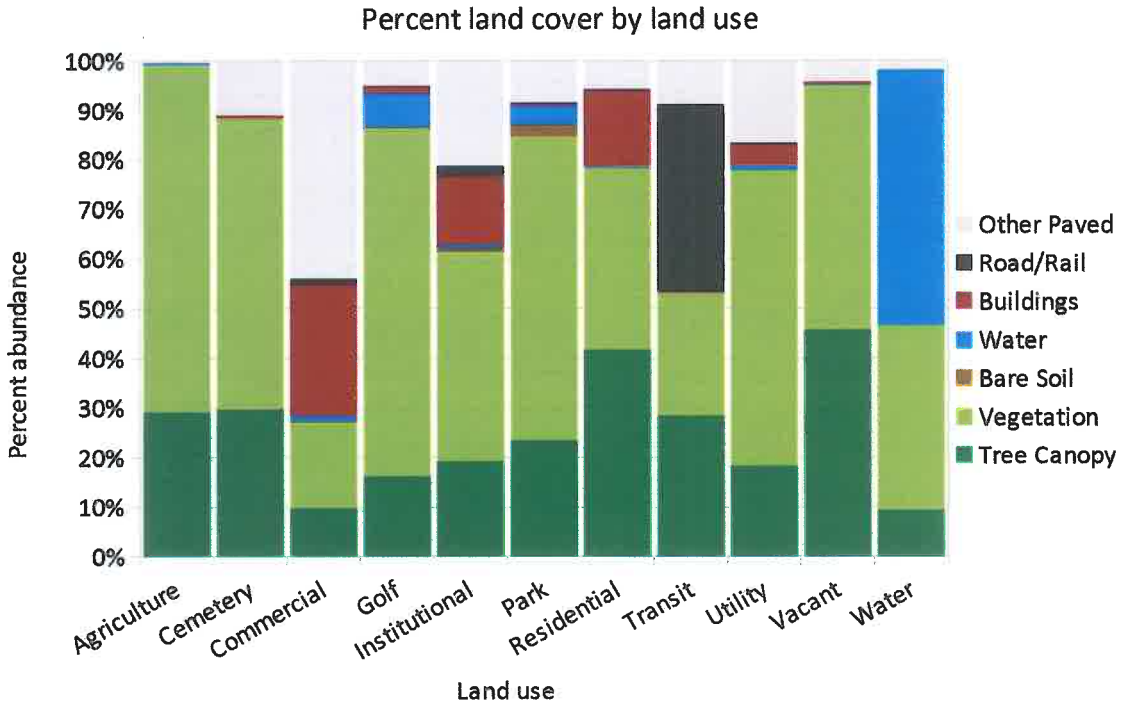

Fig 3: Variations in land cover across land use types.

Canopy cover is not distributed evenly across the region, nor within municipalities. To better understand how land cover patterns vary, we can compare them across land use types, like residential, commercial or park properties. In Downers Grove, the highest percentage of canopy is found in residential and vacant properties (Fig 3). Commercial and water land use types have the lowest canopy cover. As one might expect, transit areas have a large proportion of roads, and residential and commercial land use types have an abundance of buildings. See Table 1 at the end of this report for more details.

Downers Grove Urban Forest Summary

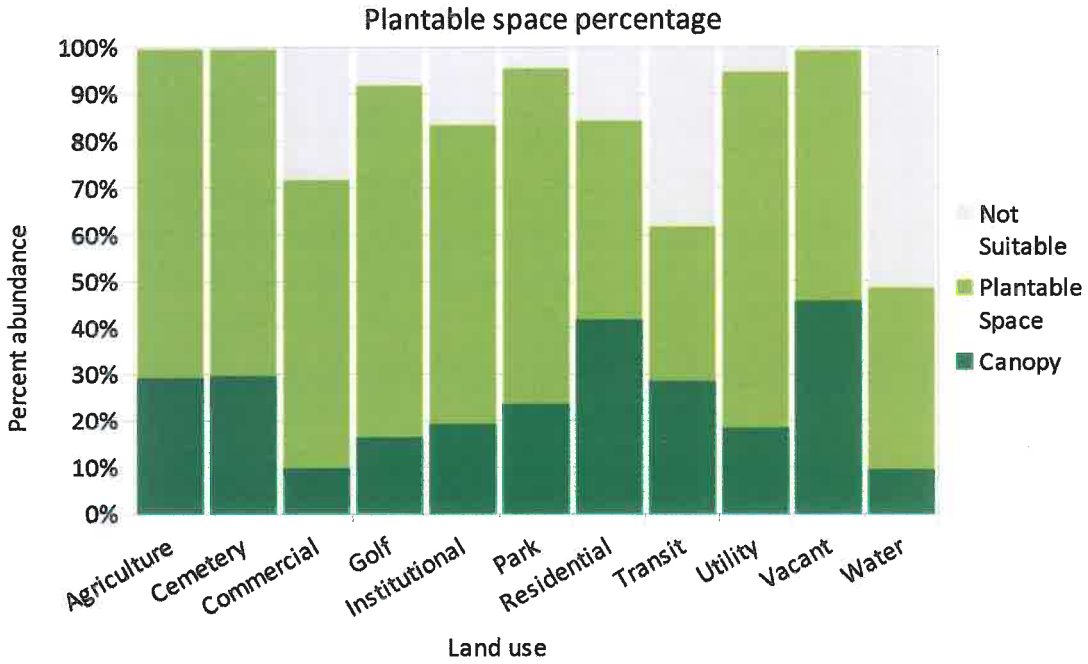

Fig 4: Current canopy and possible planting space across land use types.

By combining vegetation, bare soil and other paved surface categories we can identify which land use types have the most room for growth. In Downers Grove, the highest proportions of plantable space are found in golf courses and utility sites (Fig. 4).

Downers Grove Urban Forest Summary

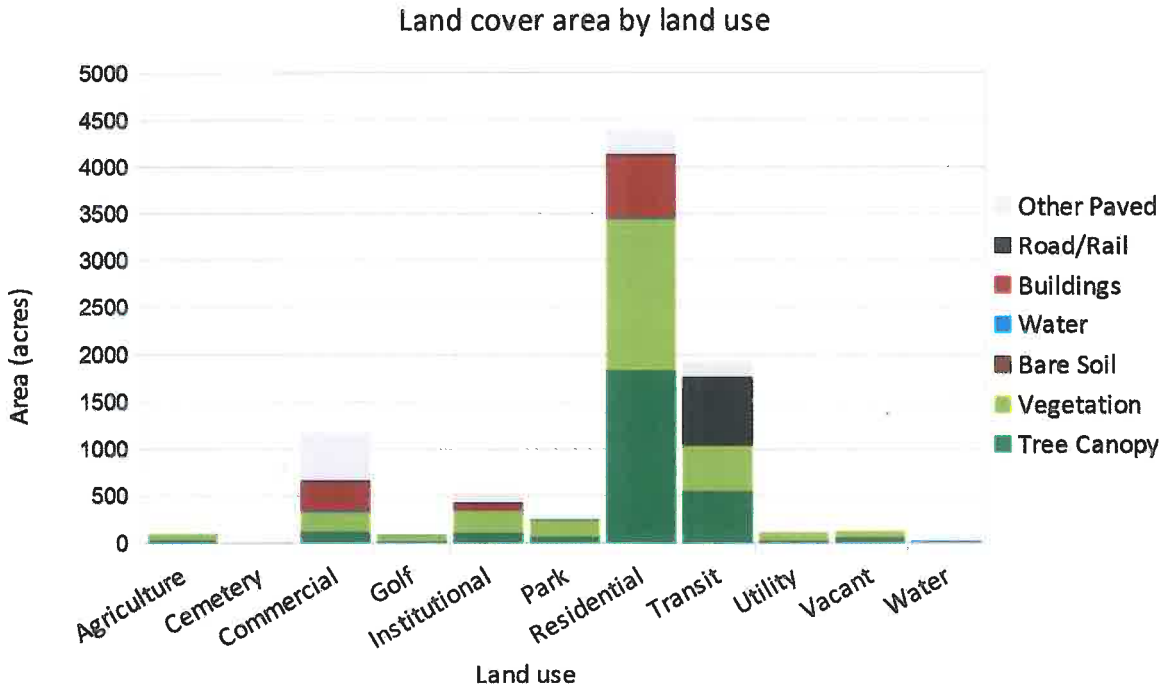

Fig 5: The majority of land is residential land use, followed by transit.

While golf courses and utility sites have a high proportion of plantable space, these land use types make up a relatively small area in Downers Grove (Fig. 5). The majority of its land is residential followed by transit.

Downers Grove Urban Forest Summary

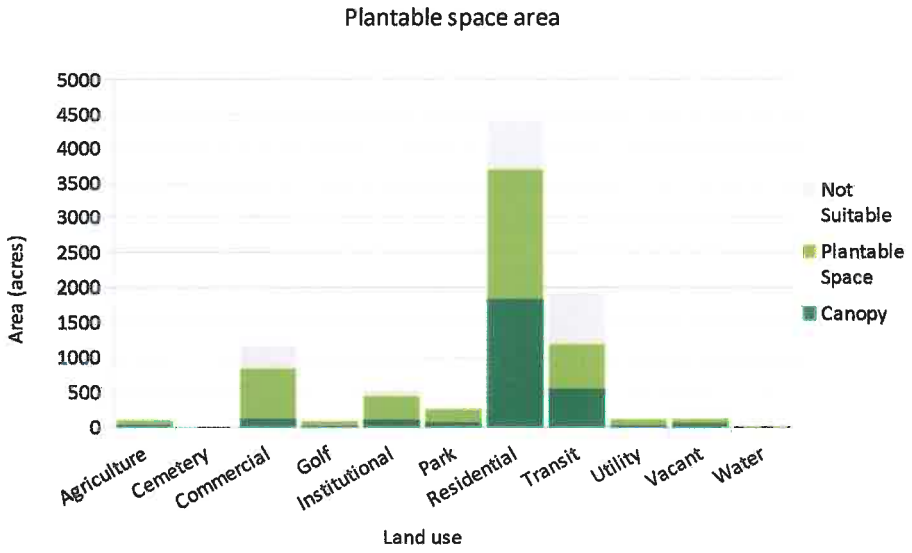

Fig 6: Residential has the greatest potential for increasing the canopy, followed by commercial.

Residential, transit and commercial land use types have the most area that could possibly be converted to canopy (Fig. 6). Targeting these areas could have the greatest impact in expanding the canopy. However, each of these land use types will require different strategies to increase canopy. Many of the transit properties are publicly owned, and could therefore be the easiest to work with. Residential property owners could be encouraged to plant more trees through tree giveaways, ordinances that encourage tree preservation, or stormwater tax breaks for properties that have more tree canopy. Commercial propery owners could be encouraged to expand canopy through ordinances that protect mature trees, and stormwater rebates for properties with more canopy.

Table 1: Summary of land cover across land use types.

	Tree canopy		Vegetation		Bare soil		Water		Buildings		Roads and rail		Other paved	
	Acres	*Percent*	*Acres*	*Percent*	*Acres*	*Percent*	*Acres*	*Percent*	*Acres*	*Percent*	*Acres*	*Percent*	*Acres*	*Percent*
Agriculture	28.0	29.1%	67.3	70.1%	0.0	0.0%	0.4	0.4%	0.0	0.0%	0.0	0.0%	0.4	0.4%
Cemetery	0.9	29.6%	1.8	58.8%	0.0	0.0%	0.0	0.0%	0.0	0.5%	0.0	0.0%	0.3	11.1%
Commercial	115.0	9.8%	203.2	17.3%	3.7	0.3%	12.4	1.1%	307.6	26.2%	13.7	1.2%	519.2	44.2%
Golf	15.1	16.2%	64.9	70.0%	0.3	0.4%	6.2	6.7%	1.4	1.5%	0.0	0.0%	4.8	5.1%
Institutional	103.0	19.2%	225.6	42.1%	4.4	0.8%	3.5	0.7%	74.1	13.8%	11.6	2.2%	114.2	21.3%
Park	63.7	23.6%	164.6	60.9%	6.7	2.5%	10.6	3.9%	1.0	0.4%	0.7	0.3%	22.8	8.5%
Residential	1833.5	41.8%	1602.5	36.5%	1.1	0.0%	12.6	0.3%	668.0	15.2%	14.4	0.3%	257.0	5.9%
Transit	548.4	28.4%	471.8	24.4%	0.2	0.0%	2.6	0.1%	5.7	0.3%	730.3	37.8%	170.9	8.9%
Utility	22.6	18.4%	73.3	59.5%	0.0	0.0%	1.2	1.0%	5.1	4.1%	0.4	0.3%	20.7	16.8%
Vacant	57.9	45.7%	62.2	49.1%	0.0	0.0%	0.2	0.2%	0.6	0.5%	0.2	0.1%	5.6	4.4%
Water	2.3	9.5%	9.1	37.1%	0.0	0.0%	12.7	51.5%	0.0	0.1%	0.0	0.0%	0.5	1.9%
Total abundance	2790.4	33.1%	2946.3	33.7%	16.5	0.2%	62.4	1.1%	1063.6	11.5%	771.2	8.3%	1116.2	12.1%

Downers Grove Urban Forest Summary

Downers Grove has more canopy than all of its neighbors, except Oak Brook. All of the surrounding municipalities have similar amounts of gray infrastructure (Fig. 7).

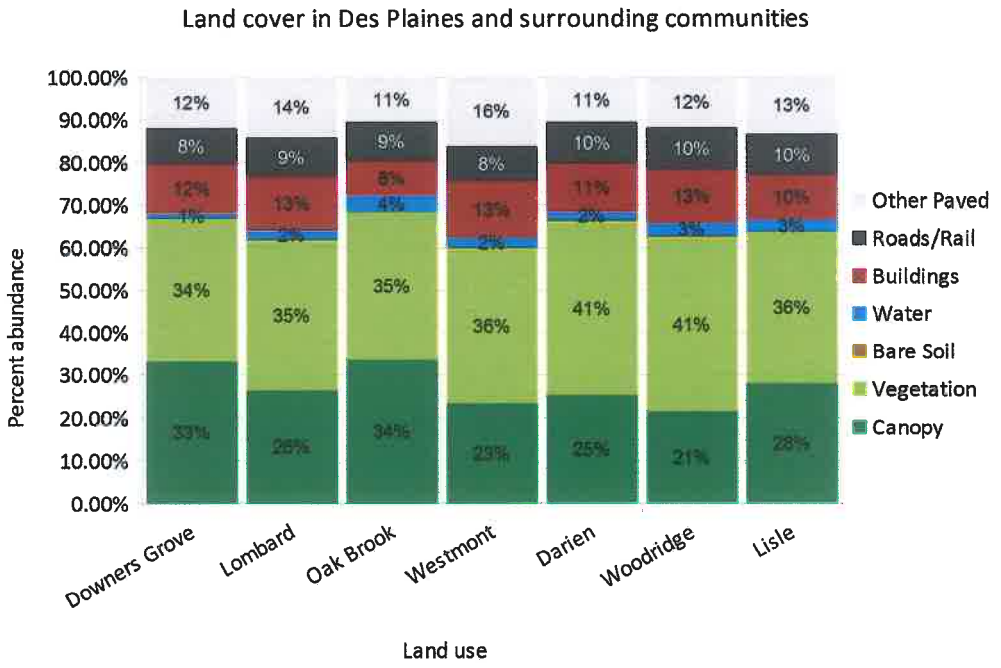

Figure 7: Comparison of land cover of Downers Grove and its neighbors.

Downers Grove Urban Forest Summary

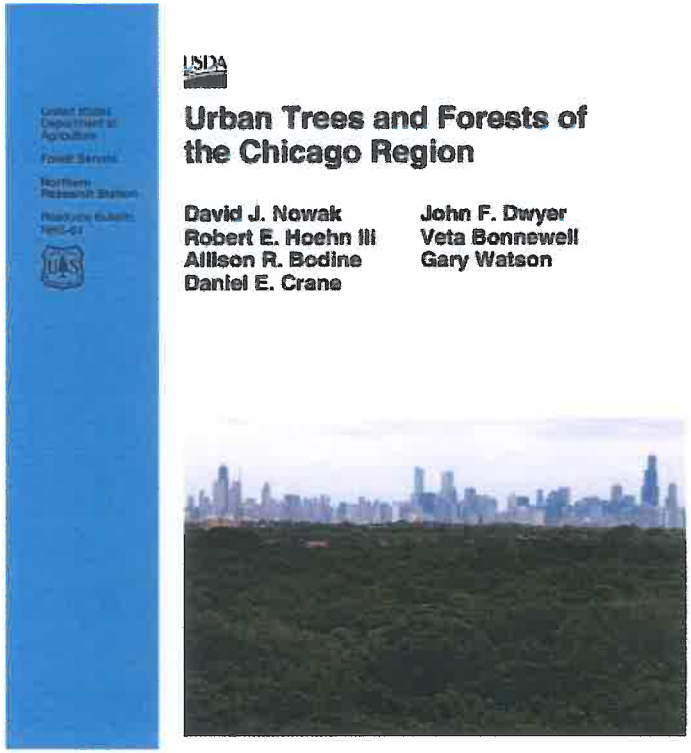

Figure 9: This Forest Service publication be found in its entirety at: http://www.nrs.fs.fed.us/pubs/44566.

While understanding canopy is an important component of urban forestry, canopy alone does not show the whole picture. We can use canopy to quantify the number and extent of trees, but not their identity, health, nor vulnerability to pests, diseases or climate change. In order to better understand the urban forest, we need a tree inventory, which will describe the abundance and location of tree species (Fig. 8).

Tree inventories come in many shapes and sizes. The most complete inventories gather data on every tree in the study area, and include information like each tree's species, any health issues the tree may have, and its specific location. This sort of inventory is invaluable for planning and monitoring the urban forest's health and growth over time. The Morton Arboretum and the USDA Forest Service conducted a sample inventory across the seven county region, and determined species composition at the county scale (Fig. 9). This resource is invaluable in understanding broad-scale composition.

To measure species composition on a finer scale, rely on inventories that measure every tree. Many communities, including Riverside, have conducted such inventories on public property. We can use these inventories to better understand the state of its urban forest, and to compare municipalities who have an inventories to each other and to the region as a whole.

All calculations in this report were made using a 2014 inventory of Downers Grove's municipal and park district trees. It should be noted that this only represents a small portion of the trees in Downers Grove, and does not include any trees that are on private property

Figure 8: Measuring tree size is a critical component to completing a tree inventory.

Downers Grove Urban Forest Summary

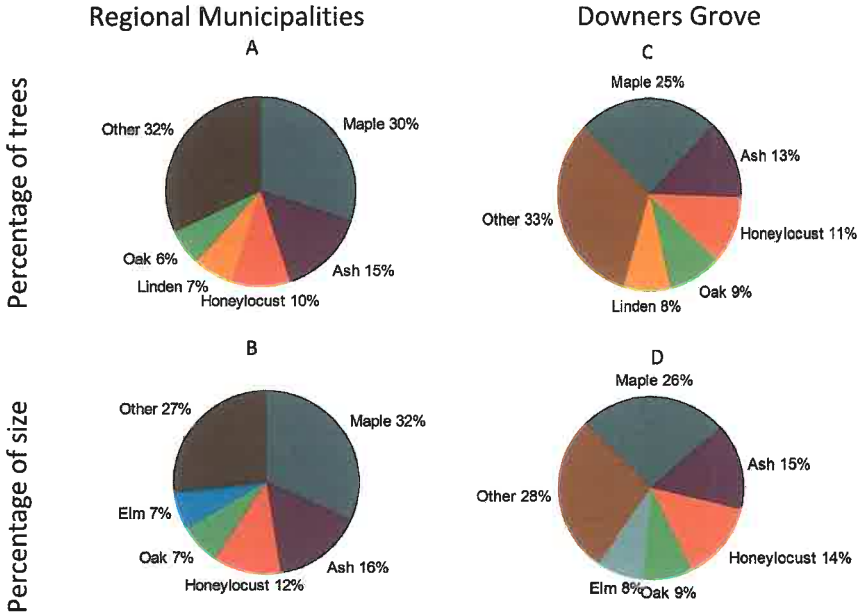

Figure 10: Region-wide, maple is the most abundant genus by number of trees in municipal plantings (A), as well as by proportion of canopy (B). Downers Grove has similar species composition to the region as a whole, except that it contains fewer maple and ash and more oaks (C and D).

Inventories allow us to look at diversity in two ways, by the abundance of individual trees, and the proportion of the entire canopy that these trees make up. To determine the second figure, we can use the diameter of the trees as a correlate for canopy abundance, as those values are closely related. Both of these measures are important. Number of individual stems is useful when calculating the number of trees that might be affected by a given pest or disease. The abundance of canopy will show how the entire forest might change. That is, losing ten, small apple trees would have a much smaller impact on the ecosystem services that a forest offers than losing ten, mature oaks. Figure 10 shows the most abundant genera in Downers Grove and across 55 other municipalities.

Many municipalities have very low species diversity. They rely heavily on tried and true species, like Freeman maples, white ash and honeylocust. Maples, on average, comprise 30% of municipal plantings. Ashes were generally in similar abundances, and losing them was a terrible ordeal. As devastating as losing ashes was for the Chicago region, losing maples would be much worse.

This illustrates how critical it is to actively increase species diversity where possible. Most pests and diseases (like emerald ash borer and Dutch elm disease) only attack a specific species or genera of plants. By diversifying species, we can ensure that our forest is resilient to these attacks. CRTI recommends that municipalities strive to have no more than 15% of a single family, 10% of a genus, and 5% of a species in their plantings. These guidelines should be met not only across the whole municipality, but at smaller scales like individual blocks.

Downer's Grove has similar species composition to the region as a whole. It has an abundance of maples, ash and honeylocust, both by stems and by size. This leads to a forest that may not be resilient to pests and diseases.

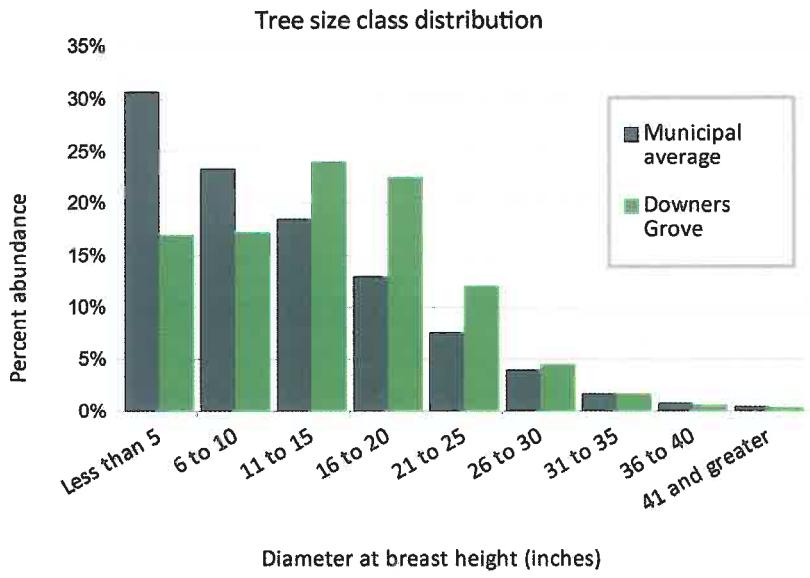

Figure 11: There are more trees in smaller age classes than in larger ones in Downers Grove and across all municipal inventories. The majority of Downers Grove's tres are in the middle size classes.

There is another type of diversity to consider beyond species diversity. A sustainable forest has a variety of ages and sizes of trees. If all of the trees in an area were planted at the same time, they will grow, age and die at the same time. When these trees reach the end of their lives, it could leave a property without trees.

For that reason, it is important to try to increase age diversity of a forest. This can be done by planting trees over several years, planting trees with different growth habits (some trees grow quickly and have shorter lifespans than others), and by under planting aging trees, so that something is ready to replace them when they die.

Paying attention to size diversity is especially critical when recovering from emerald ash borer. Many communities have vowed to replace all of the trees that they remove, but this could become problematic if they are planting all of those trees within a short time period. It may be better for overall health of the forest to space these plantings out over several years.

Overall, size diversity averaged across all municipalities looks sustainable (Fig. 11). There is room for some trees to die between each age class, with plenty to remaining to grow into the next size class. Downers Grove has more trees in the intermediate size classes. This could indicate that canopy cover will decrease in the coming decades, as large trees die and there are no smaller ones to replace them. This may be especially problematic as mature ashes are lost to EAB.

While size diversity is sustainable on the municipal, county and regional scale, it is also important to zoom into smaller areas, like specific subdivisions or properties. Planning for size class diversity on this level is important to local ecosystem services, like reducing energy use, managing stormwater and retaining soil.

Downers Grove Urban Forest Summary

Urban trees are extremely valuable. Research has allowed us to to quantify the values that trees provide, and these values go far beyond the aesthetics that are readily recognized. For example:

- Urban trees save energy by reducing surface temperatures and shading buildings.
- They store carbon dioxide and remove pollutants from the air.
- They intercept stormwater and help reduce flooding.
- Residents preferentially buy properties that have more trees, meaning that trees increase property values.

The i-Tree suite of tools was developed by the US Forest Service. They allow users to calculate tree benefits at a variety of scales, from an individual tree, to entire tree inventories, to landscape scale assessments of canopy and hydrology. For more information on i-Tree tools and methodology visit iTreetools.org.

Figure 12 shows the benefits that all of the trees (including trees public and private property) in Downers Grove offer. These values were calculated with i-Tree Landscape. Each year, Downers Grove's trees provide the municipality with $1,911,600 worth of benefits. These trees also store a lot of carbon, which is valued at an additional $10,231,200.

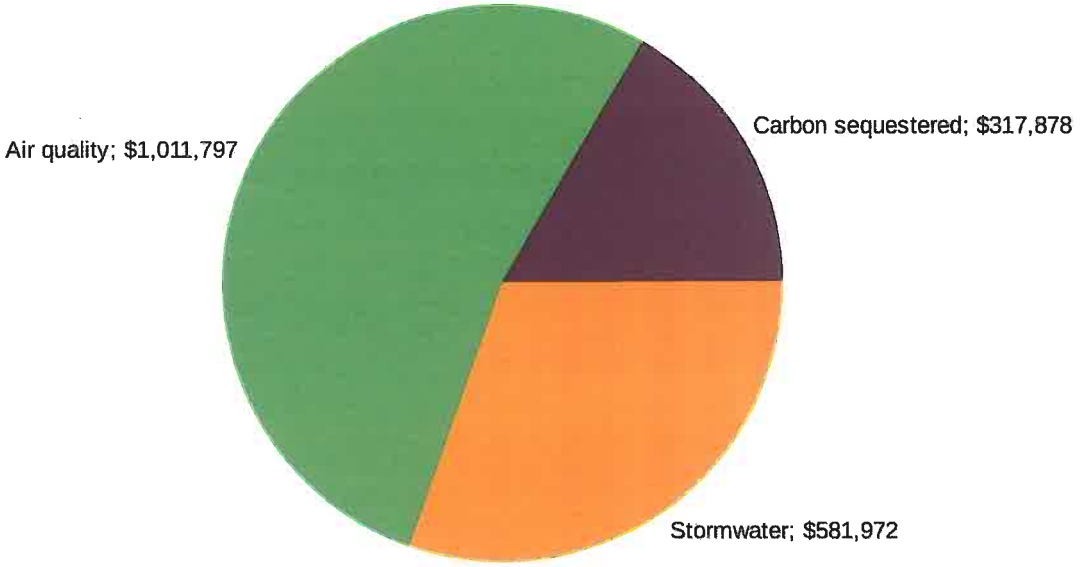

Figure 12: Trees offer myriad benefits, including intercepting stormwater, improving air quality and removing carbon from the atmosphere.

Downers Grove Urban Forest Summary

Cities tend to be hotter than rural areas because buildings and pavement absorb the sun's energy and release it as heat. This is known as the urban heat island effect. High urban temperatures increase the use of energy within buildings. It can also cause a variety of health issues to residents, and extreme heat can even cause death. Trees help lower urban temperatures by shading built surfaces and through evaporative cooling. Urban areas that have more tree canopy tend to have lower surface temperatures (Figure 13). Planting more trees in parking lots and around buildings can be especially helpful in reducing urban temperatures and making cities more comfortable.

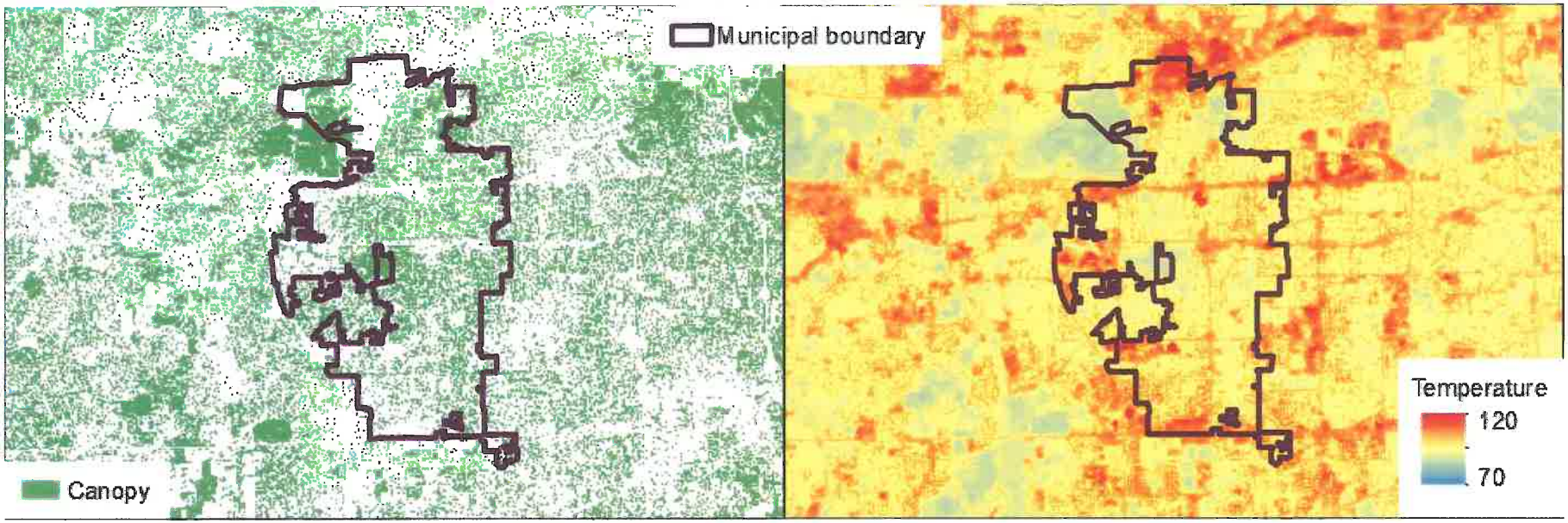

Figure 13: The image on the left shows tree canopy and on the right shows surface temperature. Surface temperature was calculated using a landsat image from September 2014. Areas that have higher tree canopy tend to have lower temperatures.

Downers Grove Urban Forest Summary

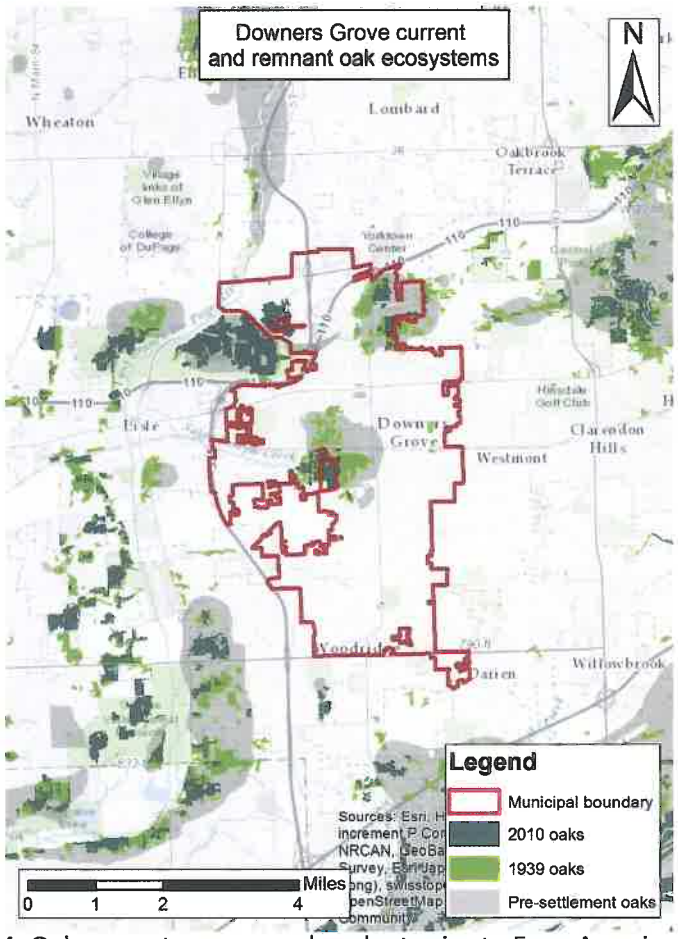

Figure 14: Oak ecosystems were abundant prior to Euro-American settlement. This map shows which of these ecosystems still remained in 1939 and 2010.

Oaks are a keystone species in our region's ecology. They provide habitat and food for countless animals, and they influence which plants grow around them. Prior to Euro-American settlement, they were the most abundant tree species in the region. However, conversion of natural areas to agriculture and development has removed many of the oaks from our region. Only 17% of oak ecosystems remain in the Chicago region. For more information on oak ecosystems in the Chicago region, see Chicago Wilderness's *Oak Ecosystem Recovery Plan*.

Prior to Euro-American settlement, oaks made up 60% of the regions canopy. Currently, in Downers Grove, they account for only 8% of the canopy. Adding additional oak trees, or using oaks to replace dying ashes, could serve to increase species diversity in Downers Grove, and to improve habitat for the birds, insects and wildlife that depend on them.

Restoring oak ecosystems is a major focus of CRTI. It's efforts include improving oak management in natural areas, and encouraging their use in municipal plantings. Many municipalities avoid oaks because foresters believe that they do poorly as street trees. CRTI strives to dispel these biases, and to teach foresters how oaks can be used effectively in urban areas. The expanded use of oaks can help increase species diversity, and continue the legacy of oaks in our region.

Municipal plantings are not the only place where oaks can be used. Downers Grove might also consider working with residents and commercial land owners to increase oaks abundance across all land use types. This could be done through programs like tree give-aways, or handouts that describe the benefits of planting oaks. CRTI is creating documents that could help in this endeavor.

Downers Grove Urban Forest Summary

Woody invasive species like European buckthorn and bush honeysuckles make up almost one in three trees in the region. These shrubs were introduced as ornamental specimens, but they have escaped cultivation. Birds eat the berries produced by buckthorn and honeysuckle, allowing the seeds to be dispersed into natural areas. Both genera are extremely disruptive to native plants and animals. They create dense thickets, and prevent other species from growing around them (Fig. 15). In natural areas, they are one of the leading contributors to reduced oak regeneration.

Woody invasives are the most abundant in Cook, DuPage and Lake Counties, but they are becoming problematic region-wide (Fig. 16). While there are very few woody invasives in Downers Grove's inventory, these trees likely exist on private property, or on unmanaged land. It is imperative to remove buckthorn from all land uses, as the seeds can easily travel to natural areas. It is difficult to dictate plantings on private property, but educating residents can encourage them to remove it of their own accord. This could include signage explaining invasive removal on public property, or expansion of programs like Conservation@Home.

Figure 15: A buckthorn thicket. Note that no other species are growing beneath the buckthorn.

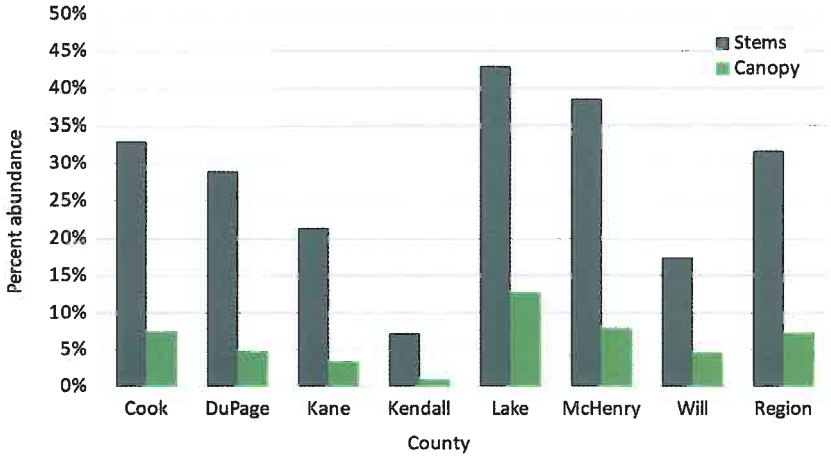

Figure 16: Woody invasive abundance across all counties. They are the most abundant in Lake and McHenry Counties, but is a threat region-wide.

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TREE CENSUS- URBAN TREES AND FORESTS OF THE CHICAGO REGION

Urban Trees and Forests of the Chicago Region. To determine the vegetation structure, functions, and values of the trees that currently constitute the Chicago region's urban forest, a tree census was conducted by The Morton Arboretum and the U.S. Forest Service in 2010. The findings provide a basis for regional leadership to build a platform for urban forest management that will inspire the region's stakeholders to plant and protect trees and improve the vigor of the urban forest. The following is a brief summary of its findings.

- As of 2010, the Chicago region had approximately 157,142,000 trees, providing a canopy that covers 21% of the region. The most common tree species are European buckthorn, green ash, box elder, black cherry, and American elm.
- Trees in the Chicago region currently provide a number of important environmental and economic services. They store 16.9 million tons of carbon (61.9 million tons CO_2) valued at $349 million. In addition, these trees remove about 677,000 tons of carbon per year (2.5 million tons CO_2/year; $14.0 million per year) and 18,080 tons of air pollution per year ($137 million per year). Chicago's regional forest is estimated to reduce annual residential energy costs by $44.0 million per year. The compensatory value of the trees is estimated at $51.2 billion.
- 21% of the region's street trees in residential areas are ash species (*Fraxinus*). The emerald ash borer is an invasive species currently devastating ash populations across the region. As ash trees die, removal and replacement costs are crippling the budgets of municipalities and other stakeholders. An effective strategy to plant a diverse number of species across areas of different land uses is necessary to avoid devastating losses like these in the future.

Summary of urban forest features, Chicago region, 2010	
Feature	Measure
Number of trees	157,142,000
Tree and shrub canopy cover	21.0%
Tree cover	15.5%
Most dominant species by:	
Number of trees	European buckthorn, green ash, boxelder, black cherry, American elm
Leaf surface area	silver maple, boxelder, green ash, European buckthorn, black walnut
Trees < 6 inches diameter (%)	73.3%
Pollution removal	
Trees	18,980 tons/year ($137 million/year)
Trees and shrubs[a]	24,170 tons/year ($183 million/year)
VOC emissions	11,976 tons/year
Carbon storage	16.9 million tons ($349 million)
Carbon sequestration	677,000 tons/year ($14.0 million/year)
Building energy reduction	$44.0 million/year
Reduced carbon emissions	$1.3 million/year
Total compensatory value	$51.2 billion

[a] *Shrub removal estimate is approximate as shrub leaf area parameters were not measured.*

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INTERACTIVE MAP

FOREST COMPOSITION

URBAN TREE CANOPY (UTC) ANALYSIS

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ADDITONAL BACKGROUND DATA

In addition to the previously described datasets, other background forest data, scientific research, and relevant regional plans will be used to guide the Work Groups and implementation of the CRTI strategy, including the following:

- The Chicago Wilderness (CW) Green Infrastructure Vision (GIV) data and strategies. The GIV is a regional-scale map of the Chicago Wilderness region that reflects existing and future green infrastructure. This includes natural areas, streams and wetlands, prairies and woodlands. The map identifies opportunities for expansion, restoration and connection all in support of the CW Biodiversity Recovery Plan.
- The Oak Ecosystem Recovery Project : A project coordinated by CW and The Morton Arboretum, will provide mapping of oak woodlands throughout the CW region and a plan that will provide important information for restoration and protection of this important forest habitat.
- The Illinois State Urban Forestry Plan provides a policy framework for implementing proper forest management and the planting and care of trees that make up the Illinois urban forest. RTI will prioritize action strategies to address needs identified in the plan relevant to the Chicago region.
- The CW Biodiversity Recovery Plan is a blueprint for saving and restoring the rare natural communities of the Chicago region. Developed over more than three years by hundreds of people — scientists, land managers, conservation advocates, planners, and caring citizens — the Recovery Plan outlines the steps necessary to achieve the mission of Chicago Wilderness and will be a key tool in identifying efforts for the RTI.
- The Northern Institute for Applied Climate Science worked with the Chicago Region Trees Initiative to complete a climate vulnerability assessment of the Chicago region and a resource tool on urban forest climate adaptation. This tool will be incorporated into the CRTI strategy.
- CRTI will combine this high quality data on the urban forest with an effective policy framework to make recommendations on species diversity, management strategies, planting locations and other strategic efforts to inform forest management programs and integrate forests into larger regional plans for an impact of a healthier environment for the Chicago region. It will also help us design an effective interactive map with multiple data layers, such as the ones in the figure below.

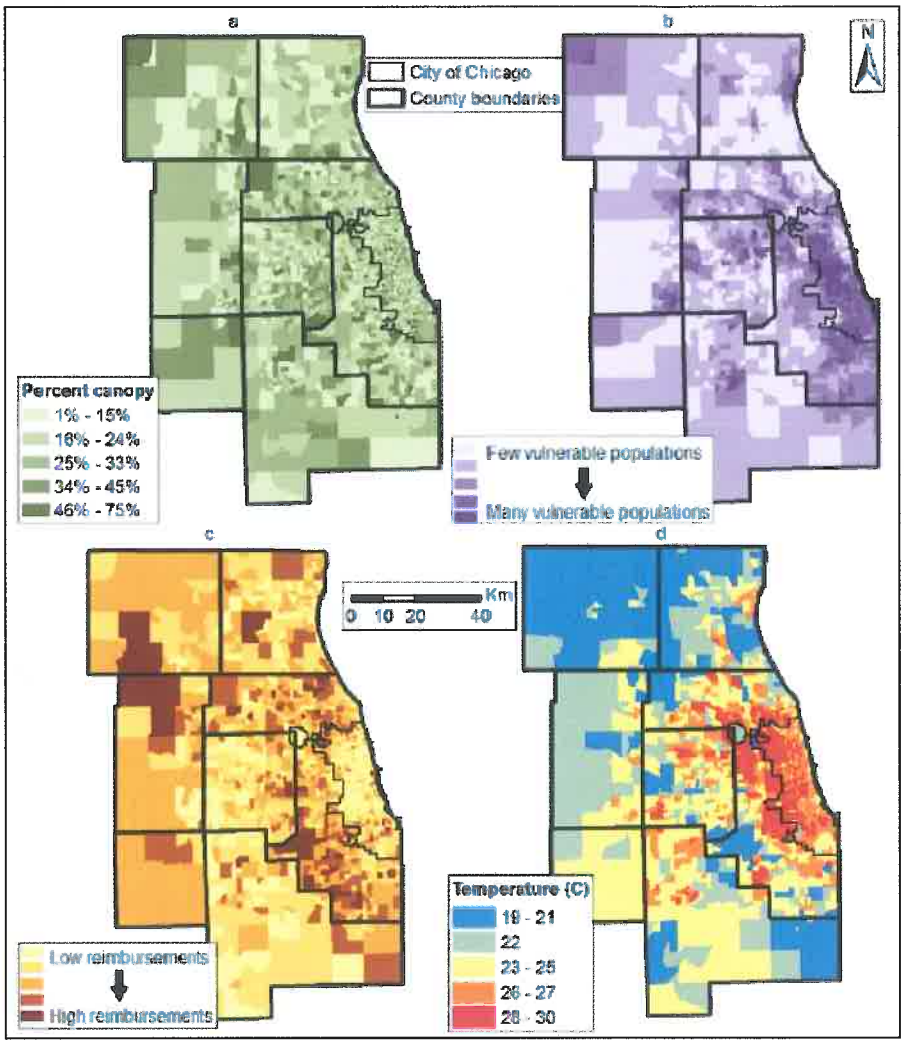

Figure 4: Select socio-economic, human health, and environmental variables were assessed across the seven county Chicago region to understand where trees are most needed. All variables are displayed at the census tract scale. (a) Canopy cover gradient; (b) Distribution of vulnerable populations, defined as: percentage of population living below the poverty line, median income, percent minority population, and percent of households without an English speaker; (c) Magnitude of Medicaid reimbursements; (d) Surface temperature as calculated from LandSat 8 on Sept. 2014.

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A VISION WITH OUTCOMES

CRTI URBAN FOREST MANAGEMENT SURVEY

The Chicago Region Trees Initiative reaches out every two years to municipalities, park districts, and other land managers with a survey to determine the operational capacity of the Chicago Region– that is, how capable are public land managers of maintaining and improving their portions of the urban forest?

Survey questions addressed the following for the urban forest in each organization:

1. financial and technical resources available for tree management;
2. current policies and strategies;
3. pressing needs in their urban forests;
4. level of oversight required on tree planting and care;
5. level of assistance in management provided to private property owners; and
6. species selections through restrictions or preference lists.

See the general results of the 2014 study here. See the 2014 survey here.

Participate in the 2016 survey here.

The 2014 survey helped us establish a baseline understanding of the challenges, limitations, and realties faced by public land managers. They also informed the direction of Chicago Region Trees Initiative and many of the projects, including our tree preservation ordinance templates, our Urban Forestry Basic Training course, and our Tree Risk Assessment short course. The survey will be sent out every other year to track progress in our region's capacity to care for our trees. A few results are highlighted below.

Management Plans layout steps to address major challenges.

In our survey, respondents reported greatest needs as

#1: Additional staff (72%)
#2: Trees (51%)
#3: Financial aid / grants (64%)
#4: Staff training/education (54%)

In 2014, 85,910 trees were removed from 114 communities.

Those communities planted 50,810 trees in replacement.

What factors mattered when they were selecting species to plant?

1. Tolerance of site conditions
2. Diversity of community trees
3. Mature height
4. Required maintenance

Tree Inventories

71% of respondents have tree inventories, but of those inventories:

Only 54% are current
Only 63% are in a digital format

How often are inventories updated?

Never (19%)

As needed (6%) Monthly (13%) Annually (22%)
Every 3-5 years (21%) Less than every 5 years (10%)

The total amount spent by 97 communities and park districts in 2014 was $14,747,706. The vast majority of which was spent on contractors, followed distantly by personnel costs.

The average cost per community for EAB programs in 2014 was $131, 678.

Storm damage

Although 60% or respondents conduct tree risk/ hazard tree assessments, 55% of respondents reported having **major storm damage** more than 6 times in the past 10 years!

One of the possible factors is **Proactive Tree Maintenance.**

18% of communities do not have a regular pruning cycle!

- 6 % of communities prune on a 1-2 year cycle
- 39 % of communities prune on a 3-5 year cycle
- 33% of communities prune on a 6-10 year cycle
- 4% of communities prune less than every 10 years

OUR IMPACT

Our goal is to make a significant, measurable improvement to the regional forest and the lives of its inhabitants by the year 2050.

LEAD PARTNERS

The Morton Arboretum, Openlands, Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning, Chicago Park District, Forest Preserves of Cook County, Illinois