

FORESTRY AND NATURAL RESOURCES

Phone 320-234-4459 ~ Fax 320-234-6971

ENERGY TREE PROGRAM 2012



It is time again to apply for an ENERGY TREE.

- Up to 3 trees per property
- NEW: \$15 per application (not per tree)
- NEW: Spring and fall applications
(If we don't sell out in the spring there will be a fall application period for the remaining trees.)

Applications are available at the Recreation Center, Park Shop or on the City of Hutchinson Forestry Page:

<http://www.ci.hutchinson.mn.us/forestry.html>

Questions?

Please Call 234-4475

TREES IN WINTER

Now is the time to prune!

If you want to pick an ideal time to prune your trees, winter is it. Three reasons to prune trees are:

- Broken or damaged limbs.
- Promoting proper growth structure.
- Disease or insect problems.
- Remove rubbing limbs, crossing limbs and bad-angled crotches.

By pruning in the winter, the tree wounds dry out before spring and don't attract insects or rotting fungi. Only prune up to 1/3 of the living crown in a season and only about 1/2 of the tree's height should be trunk (i.e. if the tree is 10 feet tall, the lowest branch should be at a maximum of 5 feet off the ground). *NOTE: Now is not the time to shear evergreen shrubs such as Arborvitae.*

City Boulevard Pruning

The City will be pruning boulevard trees throughout the coming winter. If you have questions or feel your boulevard trees need special attention, contact Forestry at 234-4459.

Why Does the City Prune Trees?

- Clearance for maintenance and emergency vehicles, stop signs, street lights, and sidewalk clearance.
- Promoting proper growth structure.
- Disease and insect problems.
- Remove rubbing limbs, crossing limbs and bad-angled crotches.
- Broken or dead branch removal.

It is our policy to prune the community in a rotating basis so as to cover each section of town. Due to storms, snow, or other emergencies, this policy may be somewhat altered. Trees are a commodity and as such change yearly. If you feel your trees need special attention, please call the Forestry line.

NATURAL RESOURCES

Prairie Burns

We have over 30 acres of restored prairie in the city limits of Hutchinson. Periodically we burn off our natural areas to mimic the natural fires that rejuvenated our prairie lands. Lightening was the cause naturally, but we now ignite them with a diesel drip torch. This process helps reduce some non-native weeds, controls most woody plants and removes prairie thatch, or the remains of the old plants. Removal of thatch is important to have good seed to soil contact and proper conditions for seed germination. It is for this reason that we ask that you DO NOT dump lawn clippings or pile leaves in our native prairie areas. Please dispose of lawn debris at our CreekSide facility. We will be burning some of our restored areas in the spring of 2012. It is a very impressive display when they are burning!



The City of Hutchinson Fire Department starts a prairie burn at Roberts Park.

BUR OAK BLIGHT

Our newest worst enemy to the trees of Hutchinson is Bur Oak Blight or BOB. Bob is a fungus that was newly discovered in Hutchinson in 2011 and was confirmed by the U.S. Forest Service. The fungus attacks the leaves and causes them to wilt. By mid summer an entire mature bur oak tree can be wilted. One way to distinguish this disease is that the wilted tree holds the wilted leaves all winter. This fungus will not kill a healthy tree in the first year, but will weaken the tree over time and make it more susceptible to other issues. At this point there is evidence that some fungicides can be effective in reducing the symptoms of BOB. If you would like more information please go to the U.S. Forest Service website at: www.na.fs.fed.us

LIMB AND BRUSH DISPOSAL

Homeowners may dispose of their limbs and brush and grass clippings free of charge at the CreekSide compost site located at 1500 Adams St SE (past the National Guard Armory). Call 587-6762 for more details.