

Advisory Committee on Trees Meeting - July 19, 2011

Present: Charles Jackman (chair), Ethel Dutky (recorder) Lesley Riddle (city liaison), Bob Trumbule, Bill Phelan (guest)

We met at the Public Works building at 5:30 to make a field trip to city playgrounds.

Buddy Attick Park – Playground

Many trees are showing decline symptoms, especially in the area along the power line. We noticed a lot of poison ivy, probably should treat it with roundup. One large Sweet Gum was noticed to have many cankers and slime flux from the trunk.

St. Hugh's Playground

We noticed two large trees with serious decline symptoms, a Sweet Gum (in the mulched area) and a willow oak.

Library

One very large willow oak continues to show decline and has a large girdling root. Lesley informed us that all of the trees near the Community Center will be mulched and have tree protection zones installed with fencing to protect them during the Labor Day Festival.

Plateau Place and Ridge Road Playground

The trees look good. Some dead wood in the large oaks, Lesley is going to have this cleaned out soon.

Greenhill Rd

A row of Amur Maple street trees still have support stakes and chains on them. These are no longer needed and should be removed soon.

Lastner Lane Playground

Lesley told us that this playground will eventually be moved to one of the open areas along Lastner Lane. The trees in the playground recently had dead wood removed. They looked good.

Ridge Rd Playground (near Research Rd, overlooks BARC)

This site had several large Chestnut Oaks decline and die. They have been removed. The remaining trees and shrubs look good. There is a concern about the playing field having no fence between the play area and the road. Unfortunately cars speed along this playground area. A barrier to keep children and balls off the road would be useful.

Protection for Large historic Ash trees in Greenbelt

We advise that the several large, historic Ash trees in Greenbelt be treated with systemic insecticide (for example, Merit) to protect from the Emerald Ash borer. This insect has been detected in several additional Maryland counties this year, and is very likely to be found in Greenbelt sometime soon. These applications can be made to the root zone, so

no drilling of the tree is needed. Bob Trumbule will advise on the details of available options.

Crescent Road Playground (near Apartments)

We noticed one large willow oak with decline symptoms. A large white oak showed evidence of past dead wood removal, and high up there was a knot hole big enough to welcome a raccoon. This should be monitored as it may indicate extensive interior rot.

Minutes from June meeting were approved with small corrections.

Next meeting will be on Tuesday, August 16 at 5:30 at Public Works.