

Red Lodge Parks, Trees and Recreation Board Tree Committee Report – March 2018

Committee members: Rue Freeman & Theresa Whistler

City Staff: James Caniglia

Tree Committee met to review the draft UFMP & DNRC Conference attended

The Tree Committee met a couple times between the Board meeting of Feb. 28 and March 21st for the sole purpose of reviewing sections of the revised Urban Forestry Management Plan (UFMP). The Tree Committee was positioned to finalize the plan, get it approved by the Parks Board for City Council discussion and review. The goal is to have the City adopt the plan by the end of March and submit to DNRC. Status of key milestones of the Grant-based project is summarized in this report.

FY 2017 Urban Forestry Grant: DNRC awarded Red Lodge \$3,650 in support of the 2017 Tree Inventory for Red Lodge city trees (trees in the public right-of-way and in City parks). DNRC did not expect RL to complete the inventory w/ the limited grant funds it received. However, since RL did complete the inventory, DNRC has been pushing to receive the revised and adopted UFMP from Red Lodge before it releases the 2018 grant award. The grant is awarded considering the 10-year work plan contained within the UFMP.

The work of completing a updated UFMP for Red Lodge has been long and tedious because we've introduced much more spatial analysis via GIS and created several maps and charts. The data has been examined first for 2017 alone and then in relation to the 2008 inventory. Most everything within the 2009 UFMP was revised and rewritten (with exception of "Soils" and "Appendix C – Tree Diseases and Insects") – a lot has changed in the past 10 years! Milestones below outline progress and how we may finally achieve UFMP completion.

Milestone Updates:

- **10/18/17 - Finalized Field Data: Tree Inventory** (collection & QA/QC) - **completed**
 - Full inventory data available to DNRC for posting to statewide inventory (TreeKeeper)
 - DNRC may begin their data analysis & value-add fact sheet updated for Red Lodge
- **11/7 – 11/9 Extracted Inventory** from GIS for data manipulation in Excel – **completed**
- **11/9/17 – DNRC Program Development Grant application submitted**
- **11/17/17 - Analysis and First Draft Updated UFP – Completed**
- **1/15/18 – RL application for Arbor Day Grant submitted (\$750) - Completed**
- **3/5/18 - UFP Draft finalized & approved by Parks Board for City Council review**
- **3/13/18 –City Council Review**
 - UFMP on agenda for discussion by City Council
 - Summary was presented to City Council followed by Q & A – **completed**
- **3/27/18 – UFMP on agenda for adoption by City Council - planned**
 - Available to share with public, DNRC, etc. following
 - Tree Committee will begin planning and targeting 2018 Cost Share, Arbor Day, Grants* or proposals based on the updated UFMP Work Plan
- **3/30/18 – DNRC Obligation met - planned**
 - City adopted UFMP submitted to DNRC
 - DNRC Program Development Grant \$ released to RL

Tree Board Retreat: Growing Greener Communities – DNRC hosted conference held in Lewistown, MT on March 15th and 16th

- Attendees:
 - Cities: Red Lodge (Theresa whistler), Kalispell, Roundup (incl Mayor), whitefish, Dillon, Butte, Great Falls, Townsend, Jordan, Livingston, Forsyth, Billings
 - Organizations: MTDNRC, NWE, MUCFA, MMIA, Tizer Gardens
- Biggest take-aways from conference:
 - Need to review 10-year work plan with focus on forestry goals – work with Jeff Hermans
 - MUCFA new association has grant money (very limited)
 - NWE says they'd be happy to work up MUCFA agreement w/ us (new to it too)
 - DNRC now recommends 5% cap on tree Genus, not 20%
 - Most other cities facing same issue with core downtown watering & cement everywhere – hire and/or contract individuals to water trees and using water wagon or truck
 - Lots of interest in opportunity MDT provides with HWY projects that include trees
- Raw Notes from conference attached (happy to explain if any questions)
- DNRC plans to host this conference every 2 years



Tree Board Retreat
2018.docx

Respectfully submitted by Theresa Whistler