

# Marine on St. Croix Forest Advisory Committee

## Workplan and Budget for 2020

**Committee Members:** Peter Foster, Chair, Leslie MacKenzie, John Goodfellow, Kirsten Vadheim, Tammy Newcomb, Felicia Cochran

### Work Plan

The Forest Advisory Committee has identified three primary areas of focus for its work in 2020. These focus areas were chosen to meet the following goals:

- Enhance the health and resilience of our urban forest
- Proactively address the coming challenge of emerald ash borer and the loss of ash trees
- Engage and educate the community about trees and maintain our Tree City USA status

**1) Increase canopy cover by filling open planting spaces, replace dead trees and increase the diversity of tree species in the Marine urban forest** by buying and growing out small trees in one or two **gravel beds**. This is a continuation of last year's successful tree planting project. We will re-assemble the existing gravel bed (including the used gravel, if possible). If we can find grant funding, we would like to build a second gravel bed to double the number of available trees.

**2) Prepare the community and the town Council for the arrival of emerald ash borer (EAB)** by:

- a) Developing an EAB mitigation plan to address the pending loss of ash (*Fraxinus* spp) in Marine's urban forest.
- b) Conducting an awareness raising campaign that includes educational materials and a tree-ribboning campaign (in conjunction with Arbor Day) so residents become aware of which trees and how many trees are at risk from emerald ash borer.
- c) Hosting a community conversation to gauge the community's interest in preservation (or removal) of ash trees in the city center.
- d) Providing the community with information on ash tree options – removal or treatment.
- e) Expanding the existing tree inventory to include identification of public and private ash trees, if assistance can be secured.

There are 11 large, publicly owned ash trees in the green spaces within the Village Center. The committee intends to bring a recommendation to the Council on which trees it suggests should be treated and which might be removed and replaced.

There are approximately 100 other ash trees on publicly owned and privately landscaped sites in Marine's urban forest area. The committee proposes to provide the Council with cost estimates for future treatment and/or removal of trees so the Council can make a

decision and incorporate those expenses into future budgets. The committee will seek to identify sources of funding assistance.

**3) Increase community interest and engagement with public and private trees.**

- a) As a Tree City USA city, we are obligated to host an **Arbor Day event**. The committee will provide educational materials and engage the community in ash-tree ribboning. We may bring in a guest speaker and offer children’s activities.
- b) If there is enough time and interest, the committee proposes to do additional tree education:
  - i) Provide tree identification education as part of the summer youth program
  - ii) Create a tree geocache activity for families
  - iii) Use social media to share educational information about tree care and tree diseases
  - iv) Provide tree pruning training

While not specifically in the work plan for the year, the committee has discussed these additional activities:

- a) Community engagement in EAB surveillance
- b) Establishing a buckthorn busting brigade

**Proposed Budget**

<b>Tree Replacement</b>			
<b>Item</b>	<b>Cost</b>	<b>Replant Existing Bed</b>	<b>Build New Bed<sup>1</sup></b>
30 small trees	\$30/ea.	\$900	\$900
Lumber for new gravel bed	2x10x12 AC2 (8) @ \$21, 4x4x8 (2) @\$9	n/a	\$162
Hardware for gravel bed	\$10	n/a	\$10
Gravel	\$450	\$0-\$450 <sup>2</sup>	\$450
Irrigation equipment	\$45	n/a	\$45
Tree tube protectors	\$1.75/ea. X 30	\$52.50	\$52.50
Stakes (30) 2" x 8'	\$1.50 x 30	\$45	\$45
FlexStrap tree tie, 50'	\$30	\$30	\$30
Gator bag for watering (30)	\$18/ea	\$540 <sup>3</sup>	\$540
	TOTAL	\$1,567.50- 2,017.50	\$2,234.50
<b>Emerald Ash Borer Education</b>			

<sup>1</sup> If sufficient grant funds can be found, we suggest building and operating a second gravel bed.

<sup>2</sup> If the gravel bed in 2019 is available and usable in 2020, there would be no additional cost.

<sup>3</sup> FAC is exploring a source for used Gator bags.

<b>Item</b>	<b>Cost</b>	<b>2020 Budget</b>	
Pre-printed tree ribbon	\$50/roll of marked tape	\$50	
<b>Arbor Day Celebration</b>			
<b>Item</b>	<b>Cost</b>	<b>2020 Budget</b>	
Arbor day materials to give away, purchased from the Arbor Day Foundation	\$100	\$100	
Print Arbor Day materials specifically for MoSC	\$100	\$100	

**Total Proposed Budget: \$1,817.50 - \$4,502**