

PUBLIC ASSETS TREE CONCERNS

To effectively create a solution to our current tree situation it is important that we first obtain an inventory of our City trees.

Once we obtain a tree inventory we can begin to assess the trees by knowledge of the species, condition, stability and hazard of the trees. If a tree is deemed to be hazardous we can plan the next step, that being the removal. A rating system may also be used to rate the hazardous condition of a tree in order to create a maintenance plan for the trees.

If a tree has to be removed it is important that we have a plan to replace the tree as well. Many factors should be taken into consideration when replacing the tree. For example, species of tree, overhead clearance, location, water source, and surrounding structures.

Critical area of concern is the trees in Fitts Park.

A lot of the trees in the Park are mature trees and they exist due to seeds being blown into the park, and have sprouted. This is pretty common and is throughout the City. Many of these invasive trees border the surrounding creek banks which makes them less stable, and more susceptible to falling. With the constant flow of people who visit our Parks the danger of a tree falling or losing a branch and hitting someone is high.

Potential solution.

To avoid or decrease the possibility of such incidents it is imperative to have a strong tree maintenance plan as well as a budget that will support it. Having the funds to maintain the existing trees and to replace them as they begin to decay allows us to be selective of the new species of trees we add to our park.

