

## **Forester report, 10/18/2018**

**EAB progress:** Ash removal work has continued in Lakeside. Total trees removed is 376 with another 30 to go. We plan to finish the removal work this fall but some stump grinding will be left until spring.

**Storm update:** The storm that blew through town on the 10<sup>th</sup> left a number of trees either uprooted or with notable crown damage. The tree crew spent most of the following five days cleaning up. Damage was widespread without any pattern although there was one pocket around 26<sup>th</sup> Ave E and Superior St. that had more damage.

**Lincoln Park willow:** With the recent grants awarded to the City, which will allow Lincoln Park to have a complete “remodel”, it was decided that the large black willow near the stage and picnic shelter will be removed. The bigger picture in this situation is what will last longer, the park improvements or the tree? If the tree is expected to live a long time then it would be wise to plan around it. If the tree appears to be near the end of its expected lifespan and it is in the way of building plans, then it makes more sense to remove it. Black willow has an expected life span of 60-100 years. In the report by Louise Levy from last year she estimated the age at over 150 years. The park improvements that will last from 20-50 years. Currently the crown of the tree shows signs of dieback and trees this old typically do not recover from that. Seeing the tips of the branches (or whole branches) not support healthy, green leaves is the canary in the coalmine for tree health. My professional opinion, based on the current condition of the tree, is that it will pose an increasing amount of risk to users of the park and that risk could increase quickly and substantially due to loss of limbs from heavy snow, high winds or an ice event. The age of the tree and the dilemma of planning for the future contribute to the need for removal but don't require it. The current and potential risk posed by this tree give enough persuasion that it should be removed.

**Clark Christenson, City Forester**

