

THE STUMP

INFORMATION BY THE BOARD FOOT

SEPTEMBER 2013

KNOT THE HOLE NEWS

Missourian's and their Community Trees

MDC's Research Science Division recently published the results of a 2012 survey on what people believe about and how much they are willing to pay for their community trees.

- They found Missourian's are willing to vote in a fee to fund tree care of community trees.
- There were differences in the amounts individuals would be willing to pay per household for trees depending on community size. As little as \$4.47 in smaller communities to over \$60 in the St. Louis area.
- Eighty-three percent agree or strongly agree that community trees are part of a community's assets like streets, utilities, and parks.
- Large majorities support protecting trees during construction and development.
- Fifty-six percent stated a topped tree is unhealthy and 90% stated a topped tree was unattractive.
- About 72% responded it is either very or somewhat important for cities to manage trees to minimum standards.
- Almost 85% think it is important to prune trees and 90% think it is important to manage trees for safety.

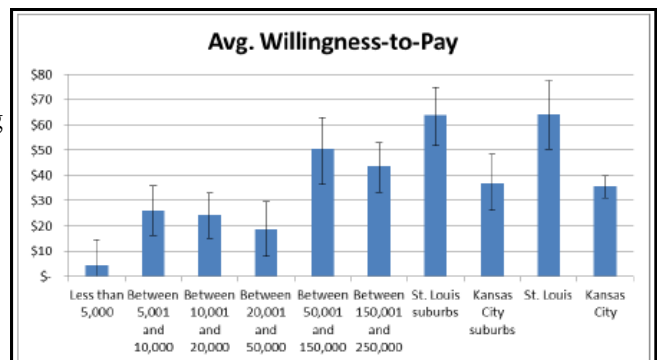


Figure 1. Mean willingness-to-pay for public tree care and maintenance ("How would you vote to establish a tree fund costing each homeowner \$X?"), from the 2012 survey.

A copy of the survey summary is available by contacting jon.skinner@mdc.mo.gov.

Sidewalks and Surface Roots

Trees are often blamed for lifting or breaking sidewalks. Often the situation was set up to fail by people. People make the choice in placement of sidewalks, curbs, utilities, and most trees in a city environment. Trees grow in response to the site they are in.

Most tree - sidewalk issues can be avoided by thoughtful design and correct installation. The key is to think how much room is available for a sidewalk outside of the curb, how much room the sidewalk will use itself of this area, then selecting the correct tree to fit the remaining area or no tree at all if the space between the sidewalk and curb is small.

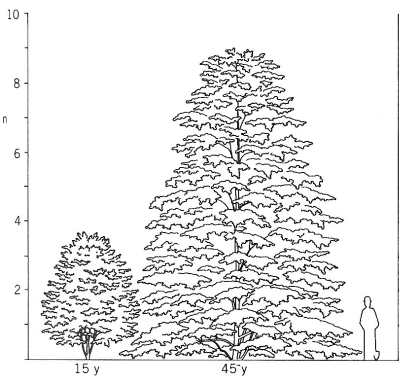
Sidewalk design can reduce many "root lifting issues." A reinforced sidewalk designed with 6 inches of 1.5 to 2 inch angular rock with no fines properly compacted lacks soil for roots to penetrate and has too much air space allowing roots that try this area to dry out in most cases. Sidewalks placed directly on compacted soil are designed to fail. While compacted soil is difficult for tree roots to penetrate, it is not impossible. Often there is a small airspace between the sidewalk and the soil. Moisture condenses in this area and becomes usable for tree roots.

Where roots have penetrated beneath the sidewalk and lifted and/or encouraged failure should not be cut as the first response. Randomly cutting roots may lead to tree decline, death, and possibly whole tree failure. The roots are the anchoring system and the way water and soil nutrients are brought into the tree. Root shaving where part of the top of the root is removed also will cause decline, death, and possible failure. In addition, The exposed inner root will be infected by decay fungi and cause long term problems.



Alternatives, include moving the sidewalk, building a ramped bridge over the roots, adding new base material and placing a new reinforced sidewalk on it, jacketing the root with large open cell foam insulation and placing the reinforced sidewalk on it with the idea of the foam collapsing as the root expands in size, grinding off small trip hazards to level, ramping over trip hazards with asphalt, replacing the sidewalk with mulch, or decomposed granite, and as a LAST RESORT remove the tree and select a better alternative specie.

Most times there are options to keep trees, the key is being open to the options. If you are interested in saving a tree, contact me (jon.skinner@mdc.mo.gov, 417-629-3423). We can visit and see what options we can develop for your tree.



Persian parrotia
Parrotia persica

A small to medium tree, Persian parrotia, ranges from 20 to 40 feet in height and 15 to 30 feet in width. Wider than tall trees are common. It has a medium to fast growth rate. A single-stemmed tree or multi-stemmed shrub with oval-rounded head of upright branches. Prefers full sun but will do ok in light shade. It also prefers slightly acidic soil (pH 6.0 - 6.5), but will tolerate chalky soils. Leaves are reddish-purple when unfolding changing to lustrous medium to dark green, 2.5 - 5 inches long and 1 to 2.5 inches wide. Flowers are perfect, about 1/3 to 1/2 inch wide, appearing before the leaves. The crimson stamens are the showy part. Bark of larger stems 4 inches or more flake to expose a mix of gray, green, white, and brown. Leaves are tolerant of colder conditions and are often the last to change color to yellow - yellow-orange. Only Japanese beetle is a significant pest. Cultivars of interest include 'Burgandy' and 'Spinners' for better purple color during leaf expansion and 'Jennifer Teates' is an upright.

Plant illustration by Jenny M. Lyverse, from *Landscape Plants for Eastern North America, 2nd Edition*, Harrison L. Flint Author

Web Site Review - Trees Work

Trees are constantly providing benefits to you, your community, and society in general. They are the only municipal asset that actually grows in value. Trees Work is a new way for you to gather information to share with your friends, neighbors, clients and community. Treeswork.org provides information on subjects like “Trees Work For Your Wallet;” “Trees Work For Your Health;” “Trees Work For Our Environment;” and more. The site provides bullet points with short summaries and links to more detailed information.



Pest Highlight - Twig Girdler



Twig girdler (*Oncideres cingulate*) is a long-horned beetle. They attack elm, hickory, oak, linden, hackberry, apple, pecan, persimmon, poplar, sour gum, honeylocust, dogwood, and some flowering fruit trees.

Adults emerge around August and do some minor feeding near the ends of branches. Female beetles notch a “V” groove in a branch 1/4 to 1/2 inch in diameter and then lay eggs between the groove and end of branch. The branch stays on the tree until it has enough wind stress to break off. Several brown branches laying around a yard can be a concern to the owner. The egg hatches and the larva burrow into the stem to feed and overwinter. In the spring it continues to feed and develop. It pupates in the branch, then emerges as an adult.

The only effective control is to collect fallen branches and destroy them before spring.

September 16

ISA Certified Arborist, Utility Specialist, and Municipal Specialist Exam, Catoosa, OK, Registration deadline August 28, 2013, Register at www.isa-arbor.com/certification/becomeCertified/

September 17

SWMCFC meeting, 8:30 AM, MDC Southwest Regional Office, 2630 N. Mayfair Ave., Springfield, MO

September 26

Joplin MCFC meeting, 7 - 9 AM, Wildcat Glades Conservation & Audubon Center, Joplin

October 10

State MCFC meeting, 10:00 AM, MDC Office, Jefferson City, MO

October 15

SWMCFC meeting, 8:30 AM, MDC Southwest Regional Office, 2630 N. Mayfair Ave., Springfield, MO

October 16

ISA Certified Arborist, Utility Specialist, and Municipal Specialist Exam, Jefferson City, MO, Registration deadline September 30, 2013, Register at www.isa-arbor.com/certification/becomeCertified/

October 24

Joplin MCFC meeting, 7 - 9 AM, Wildcat Glades Conservation & Audubon Center, Joplin

October 31

ISA Certified Arborist, Utility Specialist, and Municipal Specialist Exam, Little Rock, AR, Registration deadline October 15 30, 2013, Register at www.isa-arbor.com/certification/becomeCertified/

November 5 - 7

Society of Municipal Arborist & Partners in Community Forestry National Conference, Pittsburg, PA, Information and Registration at: www.arborday.org/shopping/pcf/2013/index.cfm

November 19

SWMCFC meeting, 8:30 AM, MDC Southwest Regional Office, 2630 N. Mayfair Ave., Springfield, MO

December 4 - 7

American Society of Consulting Arborist Annual Conference, Unacasville, CT, Information and Registration at: www.asca-consultants.org/edprograms/ac-2013_home.cfm

Suburbia is where the developer bulldozes out the trees, then names the streets after them.
~Bill Vaughn

WHAT'S HAPPENING

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