

Township Supervisors
Florence Township
Goodhue Co. MN
c/o Joe Ellingson
30163 Co. 2 Blvd.
Red Wing, MN 55066

Re: Hazard Trees Township Park Land

Dear Supervisors:

I examined the trees on township property located on high public use areas and found a total of 13 trees that I deem needing removal. This work was conducted on December 22, 2009. Mr. Joe Ellingson accompanied me during the inspection. I marked the trees with green paint.

Listed below are descriptions of the trees suggested for removal:

1. Black Cherry 12 inches diameter breast height (DBH) located south of the ball field. Tree is dead.
2. Boxelder 14" DBH. 150-200 yards south of the ball field. Tree is leaning over street.
3. Black Cherry 16: DBH. At entrance to cemetery. Large hole and associated rot in tree.

The following trees are located in the north park area. All trees are Cottonwood. Tree order starts nearest Co. Rd. 2. These trees are approximately 100 years old and have exceeded their usefulness.

4. 54" DBH. Large branch hole located 16 feet from ground. Has associated rot column in hole.
5. 51" DBH. Numerous broken limbs and visible rot.
6. 35" DBH. Large open wound from ground line to 12 feet.
7. 58" DBH. Dead on river side to 18 feet. Open hole in bole. Many large, dangerous forks.
8. 51" DBH. Two large forks. Each showing terminal dieback.
9. 51" DBH. Two large forks. Hole at 10 feet. Low sucker limbs indicate rot column in bole.
10. 42" DBH. Hole and rot visible 14 feet from ground. Sucker sprouts as in tree 9.
11. 50" DBH. Dead fork and associated rot in bole.
12. 55" DBH Weak union at first large fork.
13. 70" DBH. Large hole at 20 feet. North side dead and rotten.

Trees 1-3 could be removed by local citizens for firewood posing little risk at felling. I suggest the Township get a waiver of liability from cutters.

Trees 4-13 require professional felling and removal. Contract tree service should be allowed to market any merchantable wood to reduce removal fee. Cottonwood has a

stumpage value of about \$25-\$30 per thousand board feet, placing the value of cut product at between \$500 and \$1,000.

Tree 13 should be felled toward the north-west, away from mowed area and either left to rot or removed for poor quality firewood.

Any prospective bidders for this work concerning trees 4-13 should be experienced (minimum 5-10 years) and carry liability insurance in an amount of at least \$1 million. Some of the trees pose a risk either to the adjacent power line or homes.

Please contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,
James L. Brooks, Consulting Forester
31835 Oak Ridge Ave. Way
Lake City, MN 55041
(651) 345-3749