

Overview

This Community Threat Assessment Protocol report was developed to help the City of Flaxton make informed decisions about its street and park trees. Trees provide a multitude of benefits to the community, and using sound tree management practices allows a community to maximize these environmental services while minimizing environmental costs. Management is especially important considering the serious threats posed by invasive pests like the emerald ash borer (EAB). EAB is as close as Minnesota, and is an aggressive pest which kills all species of ash trees (but not mountain ash, which is not in the same genus). Twenty percent of Flaxton's trees are ash, and therefore vulnerable to EAB. Increasing Flaxton's tree diversity now will help Flaxton's community forest weather EAB and other aggressive pests.

Inventory and Results

In 2014, a specialist from the North Dakota Forest Service inventoried Flaxton's public trees. Findings include:

- Flaxton's 155 public trees represent 8 different species.
- The top three species are: green ash 43%, Siberian elm 21 %, Colorado spruce 18 %.
- Flaxton's trees provide \$23,333 in annual benefits, an average of \$150 per tree.
- Two-thirds of the trees are in good or fair condition, but 51 trees are in poor condition and should be removed.

Recommendations

The practices in the Recommendations section are achievable for Flaxton and will help Flaxton's public trees thrive and provide benefits sustainably.

- Use this report to develop a Community Forestry plan to guide Flaxton's efforts. A draft plan has been prepared and included.
- Remove the poorest condition trees as resources allow. A map has been included with the plan to guide these efforts. Many of the trees to be removed are Siberian elm.
- Plant an average of 11 trees each year to replace normal losses and to gradually increase the number of trees in Flaxton. Plan a variety of species from the included list "Landscape and Boulevard Trees for North Dakota."
- Update Flaxton's tree ordinance if needed, and develop an EAB response plan.
- Start the process of becoming a Tree City USA by conducting annual Arbor Day Celebrations.
- Apply for NDFS cost share funds for tree removal and tree planting. A cost-share matrix is part of the Community Forestry plan.