

City of Hudson Press Release
Thur., Feb. 7, 2019

City Unveils Historic Tree Trek and Trees-of-the-Year at Feb. 20th Forum

Hudson area homeowners will want to take one hour to think spring and talk with experts at the city's Annual Urban Forestry Forum, Wednesday February 20th from 7 to 8 PM, at Willow River Elementary Auditorium. The "Historic District Tree Trek" Hudson's newest self-guided tree ID trail, will be unveiled. The Trek was developed and installed by 5th grade students from St. Patrick's, Trinity Academy and Willow River Elementary Schools in 2018.

"The students have taken great pride and ownership in researching over 30 tree species found within a 2 block radius of their schools," according to John Mueller, Urban Forestry Board Secretary and a former science teacher at River Crest Elementary, where students installed the first Tree Trek in Wisconsin in 2016. The 4 Tree Treks now established in Hudson will be formally dedicated on Arbor Day, April 26th.

A status report on Emerald Ash Borer, and strategies for managing its impacts will be presented by Parks and Public Works Director Michael Mroz. "Protecting our best ash trees and replacing those lost with a variety of underutilized trees is the city's basic approach. These decisions are the same ones homeowners with ash trees will have to make in the coming years." Mroz said.

To further help home owners, the City has offered a "Trees of the Year" program since 2016. The trees being offered at cost for 2019 are the Crimson Cloud Hawthorne and London Plane Tree. A drawing for one of these trees will be held during the table topics breakout sessions, after the keynote address, in the Willow River Atrium.

The keynote address, ***"It's Your Urban Forest! Making Wise Planting and Maintenance Decisions at Home,"*** is by Chad Giblin, a Research Fellow in Arboriculture and Urban Forestry at the University of Minnesota. He will provide research-based advice on successful establishment of new trees, from selection, siting and proper planting to mulching, watering and pruning for a strong structure.

The Forum is free and residents from across the Hudson School District are urged to take advantage of this chance to be better informed. For details, visit the City web site at www.ci.hudson.wi.us.