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“Tree work part of City projects”



Jessica Chamberlain, Norfolk Public Library Director, looks over landscaping plans for the library.

The City of Norfolk has been taking the first steps in new construction projects in the city by removing declining trees and trees that will be affected by the eventual infestation of the emerald ash borer.

Trees near the East Norfolk Avenue bridge and the Norfolk Public Library have been removed in recent weeks in preparation for the replacement of the bridge and the renovation and expansion of the library-projects that will both begin this spring.

“Some of the trees removed were already declining. It was

best to remove any of the trees prior to the bird migratory and nesting season. Many of the trees near the library were ash trees which have been dying across the country as the emerald ash borer moved into the area. A diverse selection of trees and other native plantings are being incorporated into the landscape plan for both the bridge and the library projects,” said Shane Weidner, City of Norfolk Administrator.

Garrett Fischer of Fischer Tree Central Inc. was contracted by the City to remove the trees from the banks of the North Fork of the Elkhorn River just to the south of the bridge on East Norfolk Avenue. He and his crew removed the trees in January- a move that had to be made before bats nested in them in mid-February. Although he’s had lots of inquiries, he has uses for the wood that is stacked on the bank of the river.

“The wood is not for public sale. I’ll save the logs to use in my saw mill. Pieces that are too small for the saw mill will be used for firewood. The smaller wood chips have already been hauled to a local farmer for livestock bedding,” Fischer said.

New landscaping will eventually be put in as part of a new trail system that will go under the bridge. The project is expected to be completed this fall.

The wood harvested from the library is being saved and will be used for various projects including a saw mill demonstration at a City of Norfolk Tree Advisory Board event.

“Part of the library expansion/renovation project calls for new landscaping. We are working on a design that will be workable for the space, educate patrons on different species and add natural beauty to the area,” Weidner said.

Mayor Josh Moenning said members of the Tree Advisory Board would be working on grants for landscape projects across the City. Members of the board include Dr. G. Tom Surber, Mickella Brabec, Jarad Dahlkoetter, and Terry Hochstein. New members appointed to the board by the Mayor and approved by the City Council in February include Hope Voss, Stan Staab, April Martens and Adam Peterson.

For more information about trees in the City of Norfolk go to [norfolkne.gov/parks/Tree\\_Advisory\\_Board.htm](http://norfolkne.gov/parks/Tree_Advisory_Board.htm) .