

Liz Wallace
Communications Manager

lwallace@ci.norfolk.ne.us

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Tree advisory boards are “rooting” for healthier trees in communities



John Kouba, City of Norfolk Health Official, observes the uncovered root system of a tree outside of the Elkhorn Lodge.

On September 27, 2017, the Norfolk Tree Advisory Board hosted a Community Tree Information Meeting. The workshop had great emphasis on tree health in communities.

Laurie Stepanek, with the Nebraska Forest Service, gave the first presentation and discussed the Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) and the importance of EAB preparedness plans. Graham Herbst, a community forester in eastern Nebraska, spoke about the significance of maintaining tree inventories and gave an interesting presentation “behind the scenes.”

Graham provided an inside look into tree health through an air spade demonstration. He was able to remove soil from around the roots of two trees to observe the root system underneath and what the roots were saying about the life of the tree. He also discussed the importance of a tree’s root health.

The day concluded with a presentation by Pam Bergstrom, Forester for the Lower Elkhorn Natural Resources District. Pam discussed the function of tree boards within a community. She invited input from other tree board members who were present and asked about past and current projects in the communities.

The event was open to all tree board members as well as those interested in promoting tree projects, and tree health, within their communities. Roughly 30 people were in attendance for the event representing thirteen surrounding communities.