

Urban & Community Forest Master Plan

Town of Minersville, UT



Prepared August 2015

INTRODUCTION

The urban forest of the Town of Minersville represents a considerable economic and environmental asset to the community. A tree care maintenance program, based on the results of a windshield survey of 100 percent of the Town's public trees has been prepared, allowing for prioritization, scheduling, and budgeting for urban and community forestry programming in Minersville. Improved tree health and survival will result in long term benefits and reduce public liability by elimination of hazardous conditions.

The development of a progressive, long range urban and community forestry maintenance program based on preliminary research, inventory and study will provide the foundation for an ongoing program that will result in a healthier and safer community forest in Minersville.

At this time of increased environmental awareness, it seems hardly necessary to point out the major contributions of plant life to community health, and the benefits provided by urban and community trees. By protecting against the harshness of the urban environment, green plants make a difference between an unhealthy town and a wholesome human community. Tree lined streets and canopied parks are not only inviting, but are natural providers of important aspects of the quality of life. As their beneficiaries, we rely on them to clean out air, provide dynamic buffers, reduce noise, conserve our soil, and add to the visual quality of our community.

Acknowledging their major contribution to Minersville, the goal of this management plan is to provide a strategic approach to sustaining the urban and community trees on a short and long-term basis. The development of a realistic and achievable budget is also provided. Additionally, opportunities for cooperative partnerships between the Town, individuals, agencies, organization and utility providers is offered as a mechanism to improve the quality of the urban and community forestry program in Minersville.

This strategic plan is provided as a tool to be used for garnering public support, cooperation and funding in the reforestation of Minersville.

FINDINGS

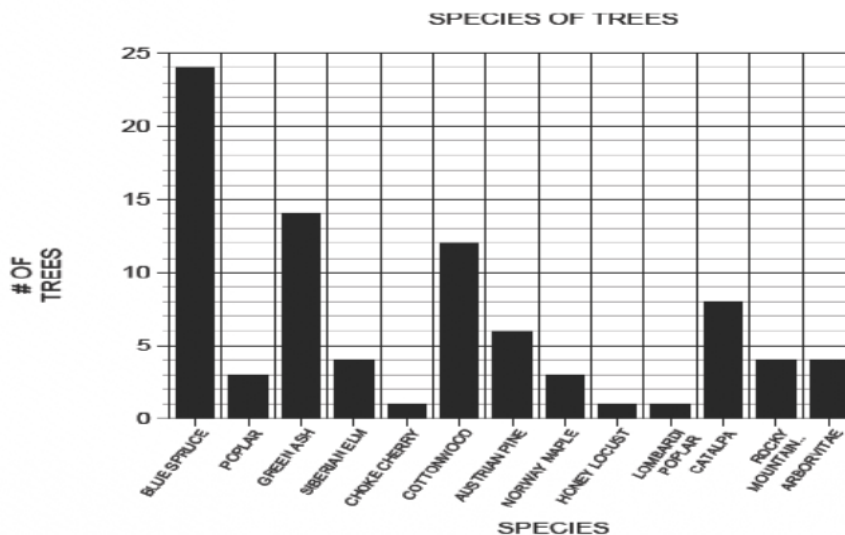
A team of inventory specialists conducted a survey of the public trees in Minersville in August, 2015. The following analyzes the results of the inventory and provides recommendations and guidelines for a strategic maintenance program in Minersville.

There are approximately 85 trees growing in the public parks and cemetery of Minersville.

Species Distribution:

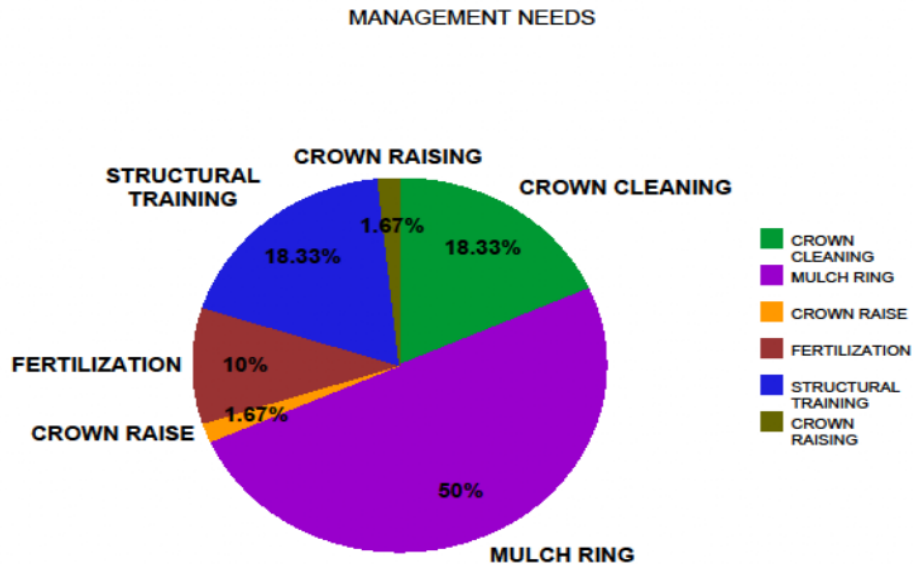
There are thirteen different Genus types found growing in the parks of Minersville. The species distribution follows:

Blue Spruce	28%
Green Ash	16%
Cottonwood	14%
Catalpa	9%
Austrian Pine	7%
Siberian Elm	5%
Rocky Mt. Juniper	5%
Arborvitae	5%
Poplar	4%
Norway Maple	4%
Chokecherry	1%
Honey Locust	1%
Lombardi Poplar	1%



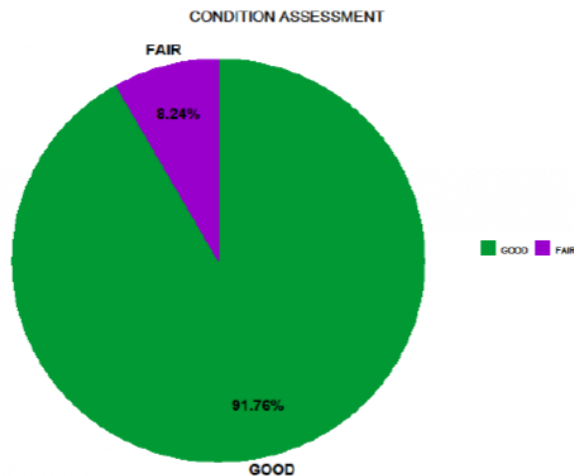
Management Needs:

The following outlines the specific management needs of the park trees of Minersville, as found in the inventory survey. Noted are the representative percentages of their recommendations.



Condition Assessment:

The percentages of the overall condition assessment of the park trees



FINDINGS

The initial windshield survey also revealed other major findings including:

- There are approximately 10 trees that have trunk wounding
- Species diversity is low, with only 5 species comprising 75% of the population of trees in our parks and cemetery.
- The need for mulch rings was noted 20 times.
- There were 4 trees that have a crowding problem at that cemetery
- Overhead utilities impact only approximately 4 percent of the trees
- There are 4 trees that are low in Chlorosis

RECOMMENDATIONS

Short-Term Action Items

- Put mulch rings around the trees with wounded trunks. Be more careful when weed eating around the trees
- Improve species diversity in new plantings
- Monitor trees on annual basis for structural, disease or cultural problems
- Thin trees when over crowding becomes a problem
- Take care of trees in need of fertilization
- Trim trees to clear overhead utilities

Long-Term Action Items

- Increase public education and involvement in the planning, care and maintenance of the community trees
- Work toward keeping a community Tree Board to provide guidance and recommendation to the Town for care and maintenance of the trees
- Increase the number of trees planted on Town property
- Provide training to in-house personnel on all phases of community tree care

Vision & Goals

The development of a community forest management program for Minersville should include mission and goals statement. The development of these items should be accomplished in order to fully define the Town's focus and commitment to the community forestry program.

Vision: To sustain a healthy, safe and appealing cemetery and park tree population in the Town of Minersville.

Goal: To effectively manage the community forest of Minersville in an effective manner through sound fiscal, personnel and operational management, utilizing in-house and contracted services and building a team of effective proponents for the trees in the community.