

## CITIZEN PRUNER INDEPENDENT PRUNING

Individuals that have completed the Citizen Pruner Training Program for the City of Minneapolis that is conducted by the University of Minnesota are eligible to perform independent pruning on boulevard and park trees. The guidelines below are provided to answer questions and ensure a safe and productive experience for all parties involved. Your willingness to volunteer as a Citizen Pruner is greatly appreciated.

- 1. Questions** - If residents have any questions, direct them to the MPRB Forestry Department at **612-313-7710** and/or the contacts below. MPRB's website may also be helpful: <http://www.minneapolisparcs.org/trees>
- 2. Safety Vest** – This is required for performing independent pruning. The MPRB is only able to provide safety vests for group sessions. Safety vests may be purchased on line or from local construction supply stores.
- 3. Citizen Pruner ID Card** – Have your Citizen Pruner ID card in your possession in case residents question your training and permission to perform pruning on public trees.
- 4. Hours Worked** - Keep track of your hours and fill out the Citizen Pruner Field Form while you are pruning. As in the training sessions, independent pruners need to keep track of the number of trees pruned on a block (ex: 14<sup>th</sup> Ave S from E 31<sup>st</sup> St to E 32<sup>nd</sup> St), as well as any questionable trees. When finished, scan and email the field form to the University ([citizenpruner@mntca.org](mailto:citizenpruner@mntca.org)) as well as to the MPRB contact person and the Forestry email addresses listed below.
- 5. Size of Area** - Tackling a good sized area is best. Since an Arborist will need to drive by to pick up brush piles, it helps to have piles that are large enough to make the pickup worthwhile. A three-to-six block area works well for this. (Ex: 14<sup>th</sup> Ave S – Cedar Ave S between E 31<sup>st</sup> St & E 32<sup>nd</sup> St...see attachment for example)
- 6. Location** - Email the locations you wish to prune to the MPRB contact person before you plan to prune, so that arrangements can be made to have brush picked up in a timely manner. Knowing where independent pruning takes place helps the Forestry office when fielding questions and explaining that Citizen Pruners are trained.
- 7. Consolidate Brush Piles** - Consolidate the brush piles as best as you can. If you have a handful of brush from one tree, bring it to the next. It makes it much easier for an MPRB Arborist to pick up fewer big piles instead on many small piles. It is important that brush piles are confined to the boulevard and not hanging out over the sidewalk or the street.
- 8. Map of Locations** – When pruning in an area has been completed, send an email and a map of brush pile locations to the MPRB contact person and the Forestry email addresses so that pruning can be kept track of.
- 9. Photos** - Please take photos, especially if you run across some blocked signs. Before/after photos really get the point across and are great to use in educational materials. Include any photos in your emails.

Contacts:

MPRB Forestry Department – [forestry@minneapolisparcs.org](mailto:forestry@minneapolisparcs.org)

MPRB Forestry Contact Person: TBD

