

http://tdn.com/news/local/longview-council-wants-city-s-birch-trees-removed-in-next/article_f41cd6f2-b6b3-11e1-97e5-0019bb2963f4.html

Longview council wants city's 1,000 birch trees removed in next 10 to 15 years

By Amy M.E. Fischer / The Daily News Jun 14, 2012

Relief is in sight for Longview residents grossed out by aphid-infested birch trees on their streets.

Upon learning that pesticides don't seem to control aphids anymore, the Longview City Council decided the best solution is to cut down the city's birch trees lining the sidewalks on many streets.

All 1,000 of them.

Thursday, the Council directed the Parks Board to stop applying the chemical imidacloprid to all street trees because it's no longer killing aphids. The council asked the board to develop a plan to eliminate all birch trees in the next 10 to 15 years and replace them with tree species less attractive to aphids. Other trees such maples, oaks and basswoods can have aphid problems, but Longview residents complain the most about the aphids in birch trees.

"We've got people with mailboxes full of them," Councilman Don Jensen said. "They're having a horrible problem with these aphids basically taking a dump on everybody, their cars and their houses."

Infestations of aphids, tiny insects that feed on tree sap and excrete a sticky "honeydew," vary from year to year depending on the weather. Over the years, the Parks Department has tried fighting the pests with a variety of chemical treatments, some of which became banned because they were harmful to the environment. Since

2004, parks workers have been spreading granular imidacloprid over the trees' root zones. The chemical breaks down when watered and is absorbed through the root system all the way up to the leaves.

In 2009, parks workers began experimenting with varying chemical doses of imidacloprid, the only known agent for widespread aphid control, on birch trees in test plots around Longview. The Parks Board concluded this year that applying the chemical at full or half doses isn't any more effective than not applying it at all. The board recommended the city discontinue using it, which would save \$2,000 a year in chemical costs and 60 hours of staff time. Also, imidacloprid has been linked to the honeybee die-off and could be banned soon, according to city documents.

Parks Board member Louis LaPierre, who has a doctorate in biology, suggested the city plant a diversity of trees instead of planting one species on a block because aphids are species-specific.

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"If you don't have a forest of birch, you won't have these huge populations of aphids," he said.

The city's urban forest has 18,000 trees. The city planted many of the birches to replace trees knocked down in the legendary Columbus Day Storm of 1962.

In a separate motion, Councilman Mike Wallin proposed that the Parks Department develop a policy for removing a nuisance street tree at the request of a resident, replanting it elsewhere and planting a different species of tree where the original tree had been. The homeowner would pay all costs. The motion passed unanimously.

Currently, the city won't remove a tree if it's not diseased or causing significant



http://tdn.com/news/local/longview-awarded-to-buy-new-trees/article_1827cb6e-d4b4-11e2-a5d6-001a4bcf887a.html

Longview awarded \$10,000 to buy new trees

By Amy M.E. Fischer / The Daily News Jun 13, 2013

The City of Longview has been awarded a \$10,000 state grant to buy 100 trees, which will make up for the roughly 90 birch trees parks workers cut down this year to curb aphid infestations.

"It comes at a real convenient time to be able to maintain our urban forest," said Dave Campbell, Parks and Recreation Director.

Longview's annual tree replacement budget is about \$30,000, which is enough to buy 300 young trees at \$100 each.

Only Tree City USA communities were eligible for the Department of Natural Resources' tree planting grant program, and Longview has been a Tree City USA for 29 years. The grant program is intended to encourage citizen involvement in supporting sustainable urban and community forestry programs at the local level.

Because of the birch tree removals and the annual loss of mature trees due to disease or safety issues, Longview has more than 4,100 vacant sites in its inventory of roughly 17,000 trees.

The 100 replacement trees will include 10 medium-to-large species, including oaks, elms, dogwoods, four species of maples and three species of ash.

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The city will spend \$500 on planting and staking materials and contribute parks workers' labor for planting and caring for the trees. In addition, the city is obligated to contribute about 175 hours of volunteer labor for its in-kind share of the grant. Campbell said he's hoping to enlist the help of Parks Board members, the City Council and other community members.

The city plans to remove another 90 birch trees next year from blocks that historically have had the worst aphid problems and then evaluate whether the thinning program helped. If necessary, yet another 90 birches would be removed in 2016.

Longview birch removal hits halfway point



Teacher, infant unharmed as massive branch crashes onto Honda in Longview

http://tdn.com/news/local/city-chops-birch-trees-over-winter-as-part-of-aphid/article_2067334a-98d8-11e2-bdfa-0019bb2963f4.html

City chops 98 birch trees over winter as part of aphid-control program

By Amy M.E. Fischer / The Daily News Mar 31, 2013

Longview parks workers cut down 98 white birch trees this winter in an attempt to quash aphid infestations that have bugged residents for years.

The city also plans to remove 90 birch trees next year between January and March. Then the city will suspend birch-cutting for a year and evaluate progress in the aphid battle. If necessary, the city would resume removing 90 birch trees a year.

"I'm hoping that two years will do it. We'll thin them out enough, have enough removals from our birch inventory that we'll have a livable level" of aphids, Parks Supervisor Curt Nedved said last week.

The city sold 163 tons of birch logs to Pacific Fibre for \$4,700, he said. The Parks Department devoted 882 man-hours to the three-month removal project.

Last June, the City Council decided to stop applying the chemical imidacloprid to Longview's street trees because it no longer was effective against aphids, tiny insects that excrete a sticky substance on cars and sidewalks.

Rather than chop down all the city's 924 birch trees, the Parks Department is removing trees at intervals to slow the spread of aphids. The insects are species-specific: some feed on birches, others feed on maples, roses and other plants. The theory is that by interrupting rows of the same species, aphids won't migrate from birch to birch and infest an entire block.

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The birch trees were thinned in the 400-600 blocks and 900-1100 blocks of 16th Avenue, the 400-600 blocks of 18th Avenue, the 400-600 blocks of 23rd Avenue and the 700-1500 blocks of Broadway. Parks workers tried to remove birches that would create the most open space.

This fall, the city will replace the 98 birches with medium-sized trees that don't damage sidewalks with their roots. The replacement species will include autumn blaze and state street maples, zelkovas, katsuras, Raywood ash, yellowwoods, nyssa black gums and golden chain trees, Nedved said.

Longview birch removal hits halfway point

MORE INFORMATION



News Photo: Thinning Birches

Longview will thin birch trees to combat aphid infestation

Longview council wants city's 1,000 birch trees removed in next 10 to 15 years

Longview council to re-examine aphid policy

Currents

— Photos: Protesters dig in for North Dakota winter

— The Pearl Harbor attack, by the numbers

Year	inventory	# treated	# removed	complaints
2016	701	0	2	21
2015	703	0	8	5
2014	711	0	100	23
2013	811	0	100	32
2012	911	4	13	31
2011	924	838	14	54
2010	938	873		

Aphid history during Parks Board meetings

March 2008- John Greene requests discontinuance of pesticide

April 2008- Response to Mr. Greene to look into safety and applications of pesticides

November 2008- Idea to form community committee to address aphids issue

March 2009- At a February council workshop there was support for starting test plots for different aphid treatments and the use of “sticky traps” for aphid control

May 2009- Stick traps not successful, dirt, leaves and pollen stuck better than aphids

July 2009- 19 test plot results, full rate 2X better control, non-watered sites showed less control, half rate no results yet

September 2009- hot and dry 2009 kept counts down, staff to continue test plots in 2010, treatments prior to dry period substantially reduced aphid populations prior to weather change

October 2009- 18th Ave residents petitioned for birch removals, aphids worse than prior years, birch removal program still in effect, possibility of resistance to chemical, board members suggestions-remove birch, every other birch, financial assistance to participate in birch removal program

November 2010- Survey to other Tree City USA with aphid problems resulted in poor response, costs to remove and replace a birch=\$500; 20K in tree budget, staff cuts occurred and will labor be there to remove the trees, costs for pesticide applications requested

January 2011- chemical applications not working for some residents, increase birch removal price, minority voice doesn't change policy, 5 years of data needed to give unbiased results (weather)

February 2011- Continue test and monitor with weather info, continue with birch removal Program

July 2011- 50% pesticide application complete, complaints minimal with cool and rainy Weather

October 2011- Purple leaf beech on Louisiana complaint

May 2012- Voted to stop pesticide applications (see bar graphs)

June 2012- council suggestions to removal all birch in 10-15 years, tree removal policy to include all species, board recommendation to remove certain number of birch per year and monitor results in 2 year timeframes, no policy change for all species

August 2012- 6 areas set for removals, maps and costs for removals

http://tdn.com/news/local/longview-council-to-re-examine-aphid-policy/article_4dba70e2-b4fd-11e1-b947-0019bb2963f4.html

Longview council to re-examine aphid policy

By The Daily News Jun 12, 2012

The Longview City Council on Thursday will consider the Parks Board's recommendation that the city stop using a certain pesticide to fight aphids because it doesn't appear to be working.

Since 2004, the city has been using imidacloprid on street trees after trying a variety of other treatments to combat aphids, tiny insects that feed on tree sap and excrete a sticky "honeydew" that drips onto sidewalks and cars. In 2009, a local committee began experimenting with different levels of the chemical (including not using any) to see what would control the pests best.

Based on the experiment results, the Parks Board has concluded that applying the imidacloprid at full or half doses isn't any more effective at controlling aphids than not applying it at all.

At times, aphid infestations along certain city blocks have been so bad that citizens have asked the city to cut down their trees.

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The 7 p.m. council meeting is upstairs at City Hall, at 15th Avenue and Broadway.

Longview City Council Agendas

 Mar 20, 2012



2011 Longview birch aphid results – summary figures

Compiled by Louis LaPierre – llapierre@lowercolumbia.edu

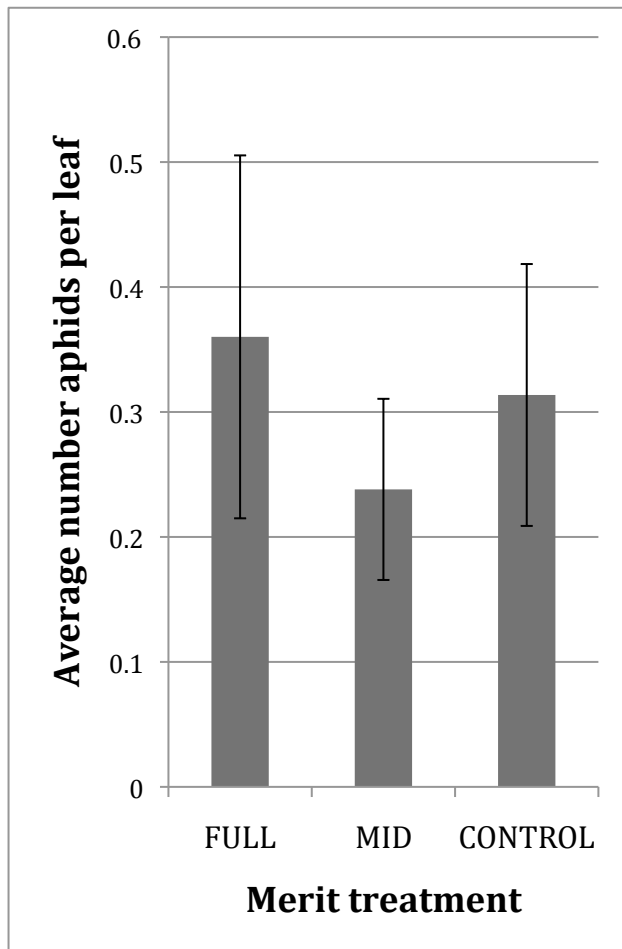


Figure 1. Comparison of treatments.

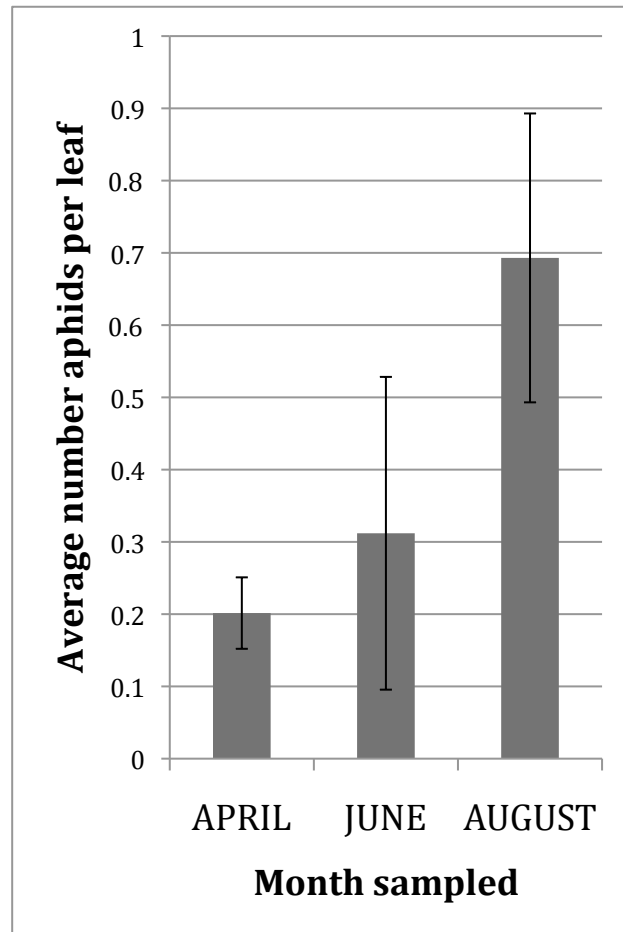


Figure 2. Monthly sample comparison.

Figure 1 shows the results of the different pesticide treatments (“FULL” = single dose at beginning of season (31 samples); “MID” = half-dose at beginning of season and another half dose mid-way through season (28 samples); “CONTROL” = no pesticide (21 samples)). Bars indicate the average value for each treatment and the error bars represent 1 standard error (a measure of the variation around the average). The results indicate that there is no significant difference among the treatments because the error bars overlap among treatments. The error bars represent the variation among samples in each treatment. In other words, some control trees had few aphids and some pesticide-treated trees had many aphids.

Figure 2 shows change in aphid population over the sampling period. Although the population appears to increase over time, as expected, there is still much variation as indicated by the error bars. April = 66 samples; June = 16 samples; August = 17 samples.

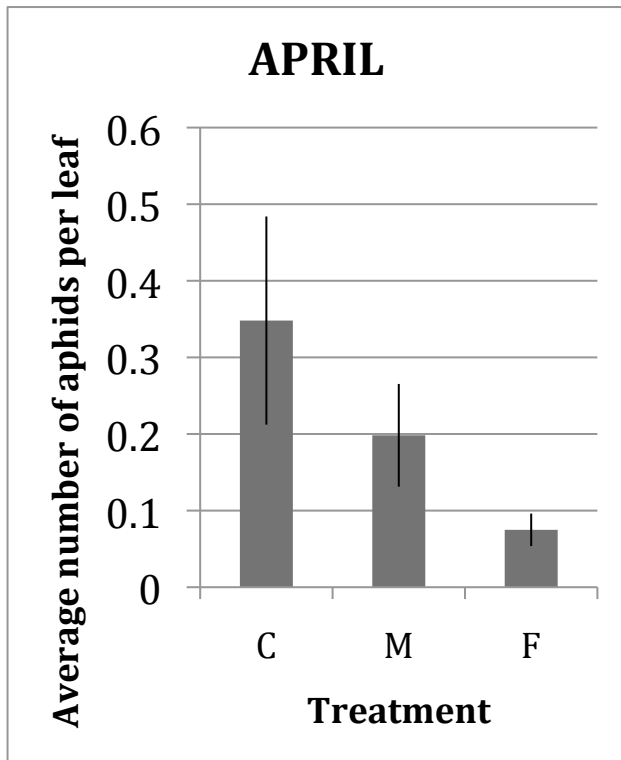


Figure 1. April samples

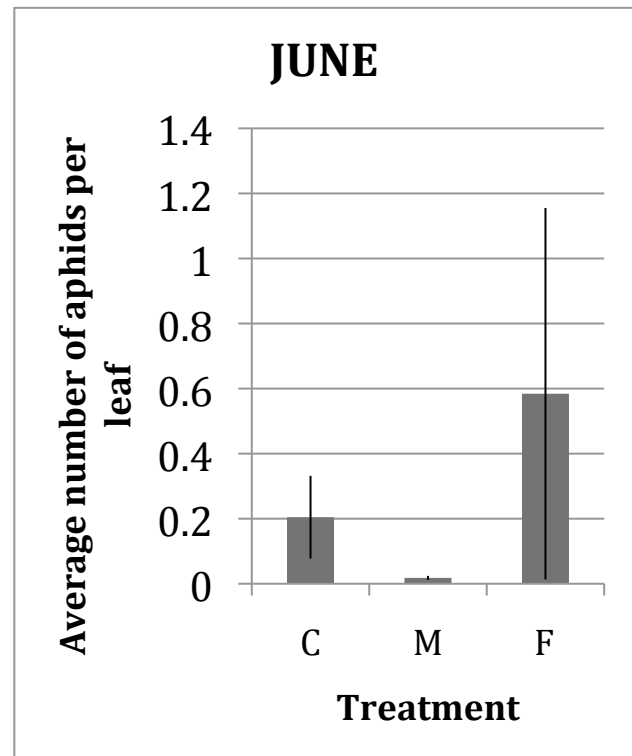


Figure 2. June samples

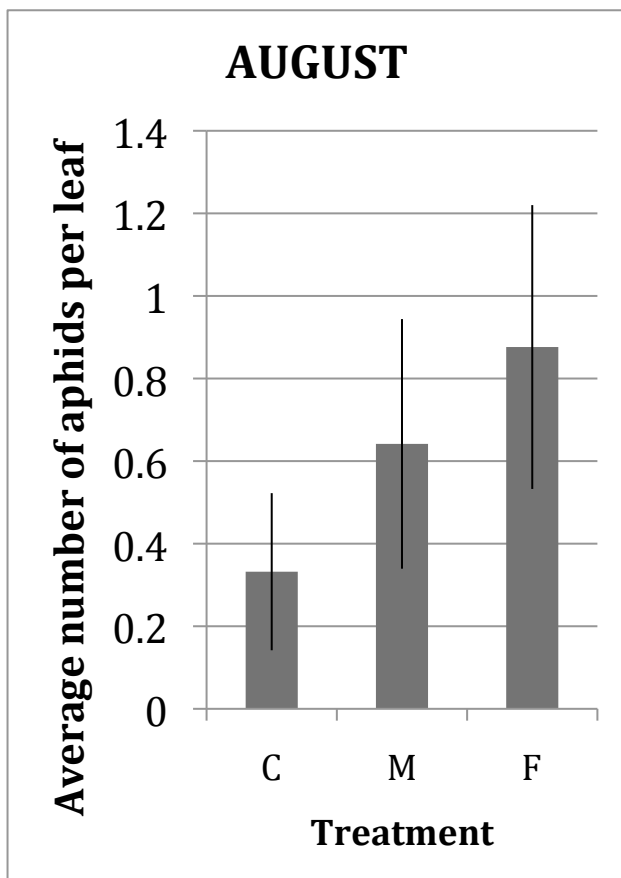


Figure 3. August samples

Figures 3-5 show the change among the pesticide treatments for each month sampled. ("C" – control; "M" = mid treatment; "F" = full treatment). Results appear to show that, for April, there is an effect between control and full pesticide treatment. Again, error bars underscore the high amount of variation among aphid samples.

IMPORTANT: the results for June and August are based on very few samples and may be inconclusive.

Sample sizes are as follows:

APRIL: C=20, M=24, F=21

JUNE: C=27, M=3, F=6

AUGUST: C=4, M=4, F=9



September 13, 2012

TO: Parks Board

FROM: Dave Campbell, Parks & Recreation Director

SUBJECT: Birch Tree Removal and Replacement Plan (Revised)

On June 14, at the same time the city council approved the parks board's recommendation to suspend using imidacloprid (Merit®) as a chemical form of aphid control on City birch trees, the council also asked the parks board to develop a plan to remove all of those trees over a 10 to 15 year period.

Think in terms of removing (and replacing) birch trees in multiples of 90, which would be the annual workload under the plan recommended below. Based on the attached data, it would require about 10 years to remove all 924 of the trees, or about nine years to remove all 810 of the street trees (leaving 114 in city parks and other landscaped areas). Alternatively, extending the work to 15 years would mean removing about 60 per year in order to eliminate them from the City's urban forest, or about 54 per year in order to remove only the street trees.

Removing and replacing birch trees is usually done by three-person crews. With two or three such crews working full-time during the January through March time frame, it would require three to four weeks to remove 90 trees. Other parks maintenance duties that normally take place during the winter as identified in the attachments would be reduced or eliminated during the years in which such concentrated removal takes place, and the public would be advised of that in advance.

However, it may not be necessary to remove all of the City's birch trees, or even all of the street trees, in order to reach a "tolerable" level of aphid infestation. *Reducing*, not necessarily eliminating, the birch monoculture that exists along some streets and replacing them with a variety of new and different species where birch are removed may yield satisfactory results. **This program is recommended to be based on a plan that evaluates the results on a year-to-year basis, rather than automatically removing all of the trees without such evaluation.**

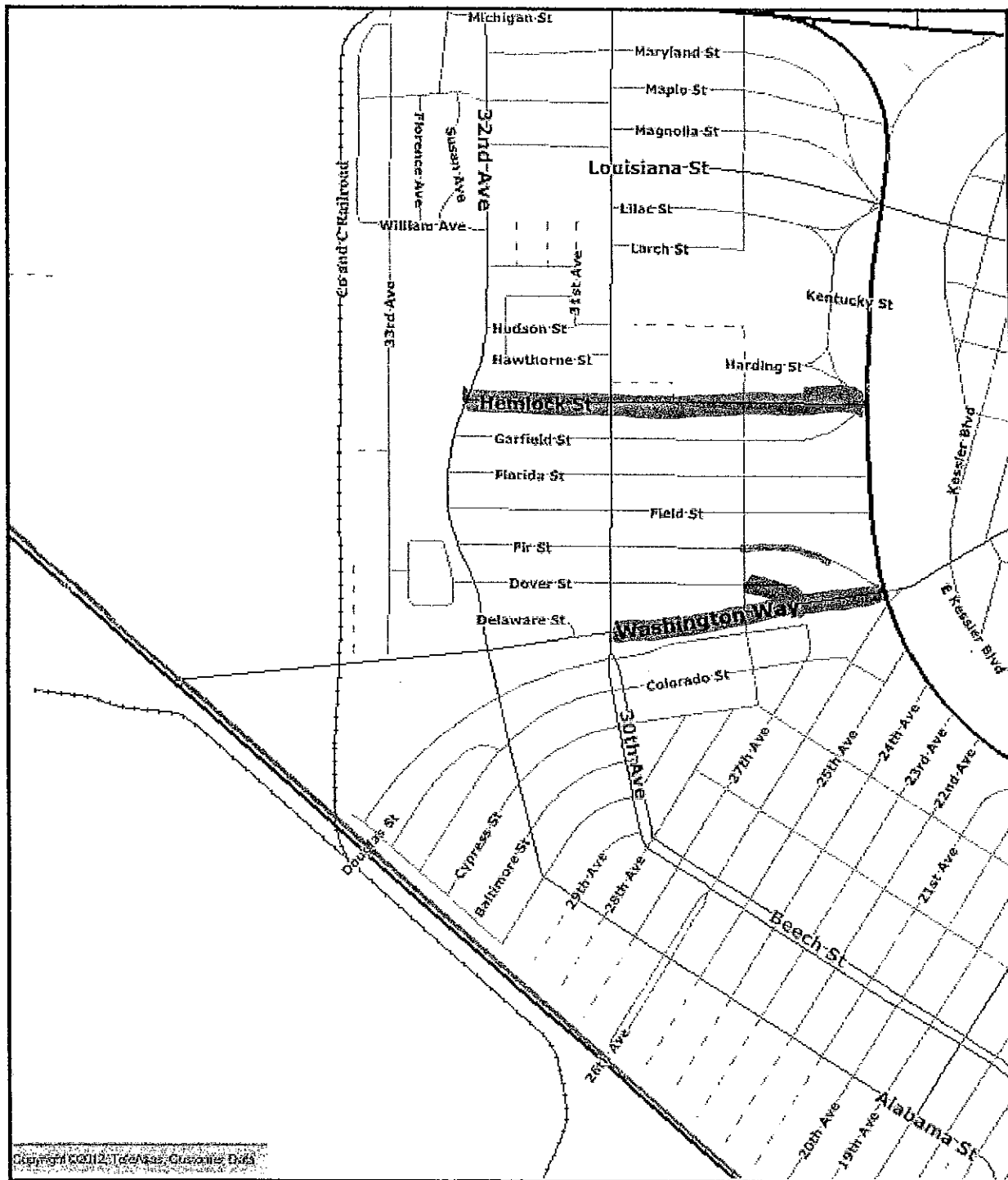
Curt Nedved and I recommend that the first removal and replacement priority should be concentrated in areas from which, historically, the most aphid complaints

have come. There are 451 birch trees in those six areas (identified in the attached material), meaning it would require five years, at a rate of 90 per year, to remove and replace all of them. If removal of a third or half of the birch trees in those higher problem areas and introducing more tree diversity at the same time achieves satisfactory results, it would require two or three years to do so.

So we further recommend planning initially to remove and replace roughly 90 trees in the problem-prone areas, in intervals of approximately every fifth tree, for two consecutive years, then “taking a year off” to evaluate the results and re-visit the pace and location of additional removals and replacements in the fourth year and beyond. Other criteria for which specific trees to remove (or not remove) are also listed in the attached material.

The attached material also identifies labor and equipment costs for birch tree removal as if those costs were being billed by or to the City. Using in-house crews to perform the work means there would not be additional out-of-pocket costs for labor, beyond the budgeted wages and benefits, but there would be a loss of other duties performed, and there should also be budget provisions for additional replacement tree purchases beyond the norm. There will also have to be a budget commitment to replace the current parks tree chipper because the existing unit is near the end of its useful life already and will not be reliable for the concentrated removal plan described above.

Attachments: Backup information from Curt Nedved, Parks Supervisor (and certified arborist), dated 8-6-12, and maps generated 6-20-12



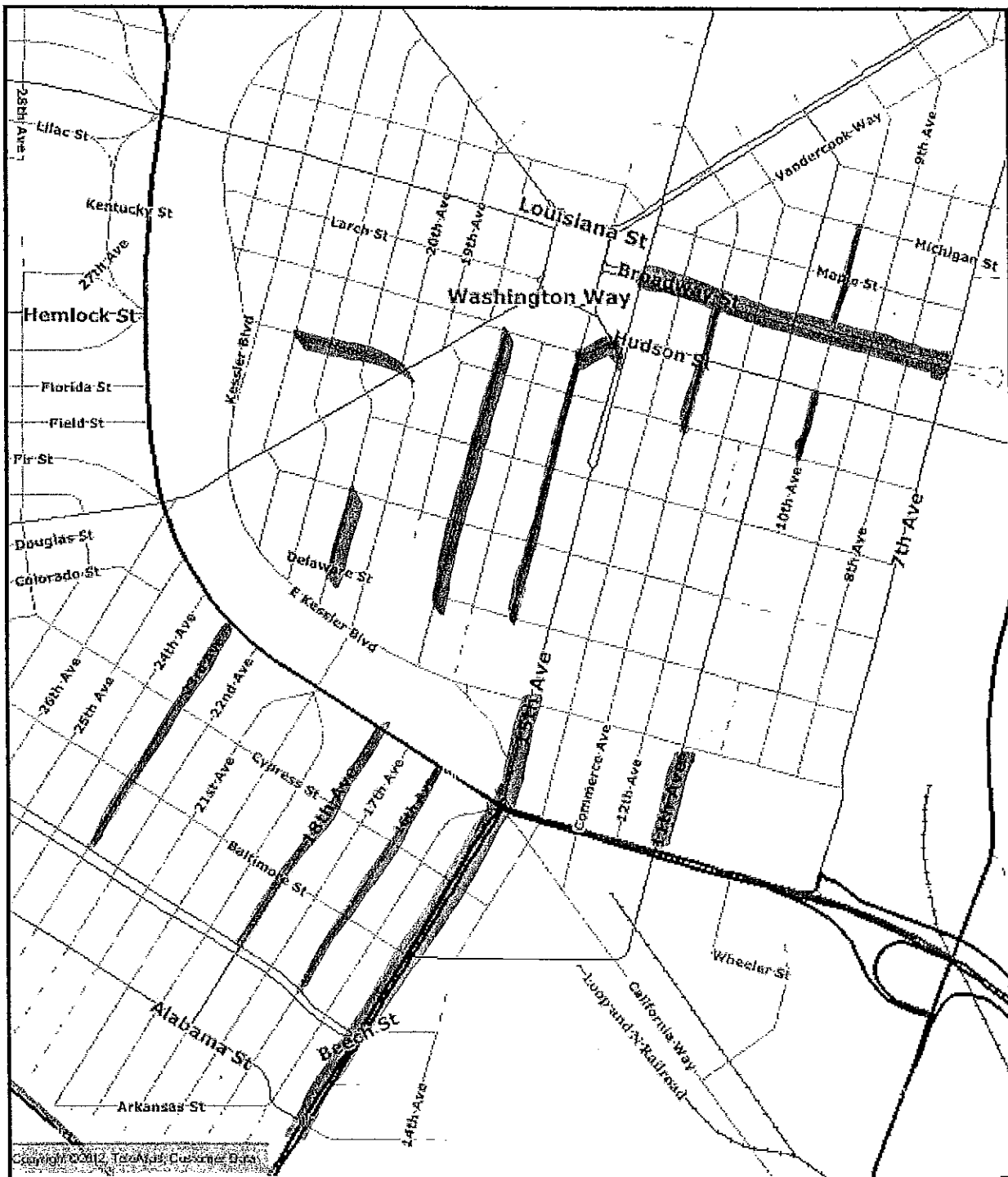
The City of
Longview
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Labor hours are straight forward, rate only varies by employees. The equipment varies because chip truck and chipper are on site the whole time but only used as brush is chipped. Bucket truck is on site the whole time but only used for the removal. Tree purchase varies by species, the trees just ordered for fall / winter planting ranged from \$60 to \$167 for 2" balled and burlapped trees. The following are recent birch and oak removals with equipment hours adjusted for non use during the removal and tree species that are scheduled for or already planted.

Birch removal 18 th Ave.	5.5 hours removal	\$169.13	
	1 hour stump grind	\$30.75	
	Equipment	\$868	
	Tree purchase	\$60	
	Tree planting	\$30.75	Total \$1158.63
Birch removal Greenway	7 hours removal	\$215.25	
	2.5 hrs stump grind	\$76.88	
	Equipment	\$1116	
	Tree purchase	\$60	
	Tree planting	\$30.75	Total \$1499.88
Birch removal 21 st	9 hours removal	\$276.75	
	2.5 hrs stump grind	\$76.88	
	Equipment	\$1240	
	Tree purchase	\$60	
	Tree planting	\$30.75	Total \$1684.38
Oak removal Washington Way	28 hrs removal	\$861	
	10 hrs stump grind	\$307.50	
	Equipment	\$4464	
	Crane rental	\$1440	
	Tree purchase	\$90	
	Tree planting	\$30.75	
	Street closure	???	
			total \$7193.25
Oak removal Lake Sac.	122 hrs removal	\$3751.50	
	17 hrs stump grind	\$522.75	
	Equipment	\$8680	
	No crane used		
	Tree purchase	\$167	
	Tree planting	\$30.75	Total \$13152

You use species, condition, location, replacement costs, and removal costs to determine an appraised value of the tree

Attached example form for above

273 trees planted in 2011

195 trees removed in 2011

21 birch trees removed in 2011

3,745 vacant sites in inventory

8-6-12

Birch data

924 birch in current inventory
810 are street trees/114 are park trees
451 birch in testing plot areas-most aphid concern calls

Attached map of birch locations

6 areas of town that have concentration of birch planted and we receive many aphid complaints

These 6 areas are 16th Ave, 18th Ave, 23rd Ave, Hemlock, Olympia and Broadway

These 6 areas have 451 birch trees

Broadway 7th Ave to 15th Ave 74 trees
16th Ave 200 through 1400 blocks 126 trees
18th Ave 200 through 1200 blocks 108 trees
23rd Ave 200 through 900 blocks 35 trees
Hemlock 2000 block plus 2600 through 3200 blocks 77 trees
Olympia 4200 through 4600 blocks 31 trees

Removal of every 5th tree would equal 91 removals, every 3rd tree=150 removals etc

Actual removal costs from 2011 birch removals vary from \$1,158 to \$1,684 *for typical birch*

To be an actual cost, must include labor, equipment and materials

Attached removal cost spreadsheet showing birch and other larger removals in which a crane rental was also included.

Replacement costs can be calculated in many different ways

As discussed at both council and parks board meetings a 1:1 replacement is not gaining on the vacant sites that exist already

1. Replace every inch of DBH with a 2" caliper tree
Example: remove a 12 inch tree and require replacement of six 2" trees
2. A tree unit factor is created for different size trees
We have used in the past 1" of DBH=2.5 tree units
Each tree unit is priced at \$24

Example: 12' tree removed would pay 12" x 2.5 units = 30 units
30 units x \$24=\$720

3. ISA has tree appraisal formulas for tree removal/ replacements

August 6, 2012

Birch removal suggestions and info from Curt Nedved

924 in inventory

810 are street trees

114 are park trees

451 are concentrated aphid complaint areas (in different corridors)

I would suggest starting the removal efforts in the complaint areas

These 451 trees are mostly located in 6 of the previous test plot areas of town

For example purposes consider removing 100 trees in a calendar year

This would be 2 removals every week all year.

Average ~~man~~ hours to remove, stump grind and plant a replacement tree is 9.5 hours; i.e., 3-person crew

Average costs to remove birch is \$1,421

100 trees would be in the 950-1000 man hours per year, i.e., 8 full weeks for

100 trees would be \$142,000 in costs (labor and equipment included) one 3-person crew.

100 replacement trees will be \$12,000 of the costs. Revenue from wood sales = \$5,000 to 5,500

Labor amounts to half a year for a full time employee

Would suggest completing the removals after Christmas lighting and leaf pick up.

Tree planting takes place at same time of year and could do replacements also.

Additional crews members available at this time (no mowing at this time). Could have 2-3 crews working then.

Suggest choosing removals on following criteria:

Remove birch in areas where multiple are in row, 1 of 3 or 2 of 6 for example

Remove birch we have received multiple aphid complaints on

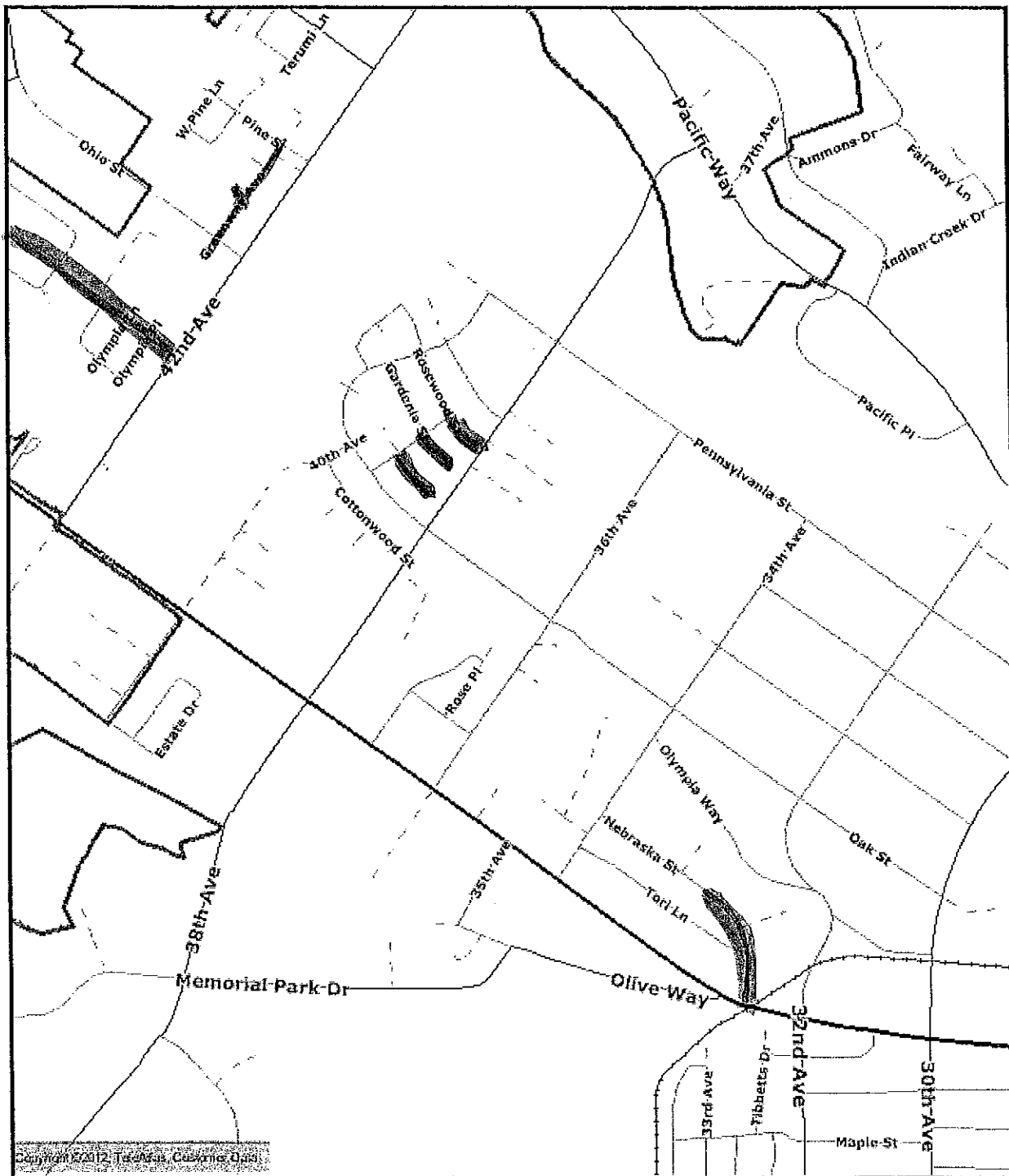
Remove birch where replacement may not need to occur (narrow planting strip)

Remove birch currently causing sidewalk/curb damage

Some residents do not want the birch removed so individual contact will need to be made

During the suggested time we are usually completing the elevation and suckering of all street trees, pressure washing moss from playgrounds, benches and tables, edging all sidewalks and curbs, doing equipment inventories and applying pre emergent weed control. These would be reduced or eliminated due to additional hours to be spent on birch removals.

Louis/MaryAnne/John Concept "need to do something"
this is the best we can do with what we have.



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http://tdn.com/news/local/longview-birch-removal-hits-halfway-point/article_7a7140b0-8b94-11e3-8e07-0019bb2963f4.html

Longview birch removal hits halfway point

Amy M.E. Fischer Feb 2, 2014

The city of Longview is halfway toward its goal of removing 93 birch trees this year to curb aphid infestations.

The Parks Department cut down 45 birch trees in January, Parks Supervisor Curt Nedved said last week. Replacement trees will be planted in the fall. The city also removed 90 birches last year, the first year of the removal program. The birch logs are sold to PacFibre.

In 2012, the City Council halted the practice of applying chemicals to Longview's street trees because the pesticide imidacloprid was no longer killing aphids — the tiny insects that excrete a sticky substance on cars and sidewalks. The council decided to try thinning the birch trees, which have had the most problems with aphids in town.

The idea is that by interrupting rows of the same species, aphids won't spread from tree to tree and infest an entire block.

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After this year, the city will suspend birch-cutting for a year and evaluate the program's effectiveness. If necessary, the city will resume cutting down birch trees in 2016.

The city had nearly 1,000 birches at the start of 2012.

A list of the addresses where birch trees will be removed this winter is posted at www.mylongview.com. On the home page under "Current News," click "Birch Tree Removal Program" and scroll down to the link.

Amy M.E. Fischer covers Longview city government and local retail businesses for The Daily News. Reach her at 360-577-2532 or afischer@tdn.com.

Longview awarded \$10,000 to buy new trees

City chops 98 birch trees over winter as part of aphid-control program



News Photo: Thinning Birches