

## Tree Planting/Care Survey Report

Many urban trees do not reach a mature size or are ailing due to issues including, but not limited to: stem-girdling roots, dysfunctional root systems, poor planting stock, improper planting and lack of inadequate care for the first 2-3 years after planting.

MNSTAC formed a subcommittee in early 2013 to better understand the state of tree planting and maintenance in Minnesota communities. The Tree Planting/Care subcommittee's first objective was to draft and send out a survey to urban forestry managers and leaders in Minnesota communities to gauge the effectiveness of current planting and care programs and identify areas in need of improvement. The subcommittee's ultimate goal is to encourage the use of more effective tree planting and care procedures in order to significantly increase the number of healthy urban trees capable of reaching a mature size.

A survey was developed and sent via email. 70 responses were collected. Selected results are as follows:

- 13% enforced tree planting specifications on new commercial and residential development
- 40% dispersed literature on tree planting specifications to homeowners
- 86% indicated they have some sort of program involving monitoring and care of trees.

In summary, MNSTAC will review the results in more detail and determine what, if any, future actions or activities should take place to promote sound tree planting and care. To see the full results, go to [http://www.mnstac.org/uploads/2/0/9/3/20933948/tree\\_policy\\_survey\\_results.pdf](http://www.mnstac.org/uploads/2/0/9/3/20933948/tree_policy_survey_results.pdf). MNSTAC would like to thank all those who took the survey and appreciates any follow up comments and suggestions to the results.