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Forestry Advisory Board Agenda

2529 High Country Court - Conference Room

August 4, 2022

8:30 AM

Call to Order

Approval of Minutes

Approve minutes of July 7, 2022 meeting

Forestry Updates

Public Tree Maintenance

Existing Work Orders Pending

Pruning Requests: 14

2 from May 2022

3 from June 2022

8 from July of 2022

Still down one chipper and stump grinder continues to be out of service

Removal

23 work orders for tree removal

Removal pending status 218

23 Carry over from past winter; 197 new removals added through ash inspections

If you have questions please contact Chair, Susan Carter at 244-1850 or Robert Davis, City Forester at 254-3825.

67 Stumps pending

Plant Health Care

Gearing up to begin trunk injections

Focus of OM Cemetery and street trees

119 total ash with an average DBH of 29 inches

Private Ash Treatments

Current Status:

368 Requests for service

370 ash trees have been treated

\$44K to be billed to City with \$16K remaining

47 properties that have been inspected and approved on list for treatment

18 new applications received and in process for inspection

123 qualified for tree planting rebate with still zero submissions

Radio piece completed by Kody Gentry

SWIFT Projects Update

New Business

Review of Chapter 8.32 Code Update Draft

Watering Enforcement

Public Comments

Adjournment

Next Meeting Date

Thursday, September 1, 2022



Grand Junction Forestry Advisory Board Minutes

July 7, 2022 - In Person and held digitally

Meeting called to Order by Susan Carter, at 8:33 AM.

Roll Call

Board Members Present: Susan Carter
Mollie Higginbotham
Dan Komlo
Kamie Long
Vince Urbina

Board Members Absent: Bennett Boeschstein
Bill Cooper
Chuck McDaniel

Parks & Recreation Staff Present: Rob Davis, Parks Supervisor, Forestry and Open Space
Ken Sherbenou, Director, Parks and Recreation
Allison Little, Administrative Specialist

Approve Minutes

Vince Urbina moved to approve the minutes of the June meeting. The motion was seconded by Dan Komlo and carried unanimously.

Public Comments

Tanya Travis talked about the Arboretum project. All the trees have been identified and she's ready to coordinate volunteers for post sanding and plate installation. Tanya Travis will work with Tanya Marchun to coordinate providing the vendor with clean QR codes for the arboretum plates. Tanya Travis also requests that staff create a place where tamper resistant screws/bits can be stored so that these items are centralized for long term maintenance. Tanya Travis asked the board how they would like to be involved long term.

Forestry Updates

Existing Work Orders Pending

Rob shared that staff has 43 work orders; four from end of 2021, two are for parks, two ROW trees we continue to have issues getting the cars moved so that trees can be trimmed. (This is down from 80 requests noted at last meeting.) Staff is struggling with equipment issues and are still down one chipper but using grapple to continue working. The green waste site has started charging this year, \$15/load which will have a budgetary impact over the course of the year.

There are 220 removal pending which are almost all ash trees from this year's inspections.

Stump removals down to 62 from 115.

Plant Health Care

1249 trunk sprays completed (mostly ash), 357 elm scale treatments completed, and some aphid, and honey dew treatments downtown (104).

City ash injections are beginning on trees 25" and larger for the third year. Staff purchased metal disc tags to label the trees which have gotten injected. Staff are working through organizing the treatment trees into 3 cohesive years.

Currently, trunks are painted as follows:

black – removal

green – treated last year

blue – treated this year

Some trees received no 2022 mark. These trees are receiving no specific treatment this year, and staff are evaluating for future options.

Private Ash Treatment

So far, 314 addresses have requested evaluation. 206 trees have qualified for treatment, and \$35,000 in treatments are planned. About \$25,000 of the spray budget remains.

100 trees qualify for the rebate program though zero people have requested rebates. Currently the rebates only apply to ash program participants, but due to low response staff may ask Council to consider expanding to general planting rebate.

Mesa County Library Presentation

Rob gave an hour-long presentation for 90 attendees. At the conclusion of the presentation there were about 45 minutes of questions.

New Business

Education and Marketing

Tanya Marchun met with staff from T4 Tree Service to capture injection footage and has also met with City staff working through their spray treatments. Tanya will create a video to help further advertise treatment and rebate options. Board members wondered if a hard copy flyer or door hanger for T4 to give out (or if program is expanded for staff to give out) to disqualified trees so people have the information readily available to access the planting program money.

Tanya shared that her long-term vision includes working up a 30 second/1 minute video to increase engagement around the current program. In the future, she hopes to work on a series of longer videos to help expand education and drive interest around watering, health, and other tree issues. Board members wondered how videos get out to the public. Board members shared concern that if the only promotion is through the website we might miss an important section of the public. Tanya will work with the board to determine what methods might be the most effective for gaining the widest audience.

Board members also wondered if outreach could focus on areas that needs trees based on the census block assessment. Additionally, members voiced concerns that our practice is to plant ROW trees where automated irrigation exists. Does this disproportionately impact lower income neighborhoods?

How does the Forestry Board ensure that those neighborhoods are not disproportionately adversely impacted where tree canopy is concerned? The board discussed a number of outreach and education topics that the Board could tackle as a future standing agenda item: Watering, education around the existence of the ordinance (in general), outreach beyond social media, etc.

Chapter 8.32 updates

Rob Davis talked with the board about updating the Code. Ken Sherbenou talked with the Board about the increasing awareness and attention public trees are receiving. Per the goals of the Parks, Recreation and Open Space master plan, evaluation and updating of the code makes sense.

The Board committed to spending the last half hour of each meeting (more time if it's available) working through the Code starting with the draft the Forestry Board previously had begun working on. This will allow the board to gather feedback from the Department Director, City Attorney's Office, City Manager and other folks as issues arise.

Susan Carter shared with the board that 50 people attended the Japanese beetle meeting. The Colorado Department of Agriculture (CDA) has backed off their desire to drop the quarantine requirements and are working on increased trapping on the western slope in areas outside the CSU Extension Office's jurisdiction. CDA has increased their focus on the spotted lantern fly. The tree of heaven (a favorite of the spotted lantern fly) is likely going to be added to List C (of the noxious species list) in the next year or two.

Kamie Long talked with the Board about the planting guide she put together and wondered if the Board wanted to endorse that as document which could be forwarded to the nurseries for distribution. The Board felt strongly that standard messaging from the nurseries could really help with success of the trees and the added visuals are an important component to help folks understand proper planting techniques. Kamie will add the Forestry Board logo and link to the video so that the Board can distribute the document to nurseries.

Adjourn

The meeting adjourned by acclamation at 10:02 AM.

Next Forestry Advisory Board Meeting - Thursday, August 4, 2022 at 8:30 AM.

Respectfully Submitted,
Allison Little, Administrative Specialist

Project Area Prescriptions

2022-2023 Grand Junction Protecting Critical Infrastructure in Riparian WUI
Contract Administrator: Ellis Thompson-Ellis 970-697-7052 (cell) ellist@gjcity.org

Vegetation Guidelines for all project areas:

- The terms project area and unit are used interchangeably.
- **Prioritize cutting tamarisk and Russian Olive, dead, and down.** Remove all stems of Russian olive, Siberian elm, and tamarisk under 12 inches in diameter
 - **Leave all healthy cottonwood stems of any size.**
 - **For unhealthy cottonwood stems** that have significant branch dieback or serious trunk wounds, only remove them if they pose a risk to infrastructure or human safety. Contact the Contract Administrator for assistance if needed.
 - **For Russian olive and Tamarisk**
 - Treat stumps of removed trees,
 - Leave trees should be the larger diameter trees on the landscape,
 - Remove any shrubs growing beneath leave trees within 3-5 feet,
 - Do not remove branches/ prune tree.
 - **Remove all shrubs/ladder fuels (native and non-native) growing directly beneath tree crowns for leave-trees and cottonwood galleries.**
 - Only herbicide treat non-native stumps.
 - See below for shrub dominated portions of the unit.
 - **Non-native trees over 12 inches in diameter will need to be left, but cottonwood trees are the preferred species.**
 - Do not remove more than 70% of the total tree canopy in the unit (includes all tree species).
 - Select leave-trees based on health of the tree and spacing between other leave-trees.
 - Other consideration when determining leave trees include: minimal wounds or basal damage, healthy canopy, good root system that has not been exposed by wind or water
 - Canopy separation does not need to be a consideration in determining leave trees however, the mature leave trees should not be clumped together in one area on the unit.
 - If a large tree poses a threat to infrastructure or human safety it should be removed.
 - If the crew is unable to remove a hazard tree, inform the Contract Administrator.

Herbicide Application

- Use cut-stump treatment with Imazapyr or Garlon with the aquatic label (Garlon 3A) or a comparable aquatic herbicide with the active chemical called Triclopyr.
- The contractor must get any herbicide other than Imazapyr or Garlon 3A approved by the Contract Administrator prior to commencing work.
- Must be applied to cut stump as soon as possible, within 10 minutes.
- Do not apply to native shrub stumps.

Erosion Guidelines and Considerations

- **Important that the project does not negatively impact erosion or slope degradation.** Trees and shrubs within 10' of banks or on slopes greater than 15% are to be left in place.
- Tree trunks larger than 8 inches in diameter (regardless of species) and longer than 5 feet may be left on site and used for erosion control, especially in areas with slopes.
 - All side limbs should be removed off the trunk by the contractor before being placed on the landscape.
 - Should be placed in a way that is stable and doesn't inhibit wildlife or human access to the area.

Green Waste Disposal Guidelines

- All treated material, slash, and chips will be kept 10 feet back from the edge of the river or canal.
- **When chipping:** thoroughly chip all treated material and slash on site. Distribute chip material across the unit. The desired average chip depth is 2 inches or less, with a maximum of 4 inches allowed, in all units.
- **When piling:** specific pile guidelines for each site will be given to the crews before beginning work in a project area.

Hazards and situational awareness

- Every effort will be made by local law enforcement to remove hazardous materials from unhoused persons prior to crew arrival.
- There are multiple natural and human-caused hazards in the project units. They include power lines, ditches, miscellaneous debris like old fences, concrete, rebar, and materials from unhoused persons. Crews need to be aware at all times and report any safety concerns or hazard mitigation needs to the Contract Administrator.
- When and where appropriate, signs will be posted nearby to inform visitors of the project by Grand Junction or the Contract Administrator.
- Contractor must also post work in progress signs.
- Contractor staff will need to have situational awareness at all times.
- If the public approaches the project area at any time, all equipment needs to be shut down or put into idle mode until they are clear.
- Any public inquiries to the project should be directed to the Contract Administrator.

Las Colonias Island

City = 7.45 acres



Map of Project Area:



General Notes for project area:

- Access is through public park. It is very important to not do any resource damage moving equipment and people across the property to the project area.
- Dense forest of Russian Olive and Tamarisk with Cottonwood stands to be preserved.
- Relatively flat terrain
- Moderately dense understory

Project prescription:

- The overall goal is to significantly thin fuels in the areas highlighted in orange, remove ladder fuels in the green areas, and provide mosaic canopy separation between clusters of vegetation.
- Green waste will be piled for later burning. A pile guide will be provided prior to crew work, and on-site guidance will be provided.

Railroad Island

City = 16.9 acres

Map of Project Area:

General Notes for project area:

- Access is through public park. It is very important to not do any resource damage moving equipment and people across the property to the project area.



- Dense forest Russian Olive and Tamarisk with 2-3 large cottonwood stands
- Adjacent to Colorado River and side channel
- Cobbled crossing with relatively flat terrain on site

Project prescription:

- The overall goal is to significantly thin fuels in the areas highlighted in orange, remove ladder fuels in the green areas, and provide mosaic canopy separation between clusters of vegetation.
- Green waste will be piled for later burning. A pile guide will be provided prior to crew work, and on-site guidance will be provided.

Riverfront Trail Section A

CDOT = 9.11 acres Private Property = 3.35 acres. Total = 12.52 acres

Project Area Map



General Notes for project area:

- Access is through parking area west of the bridge and private property.
- Mature cottonwood gallery
- Moderate density understory with well-defined trails
- Siberian elm, Russian olive, and tamarisk (all sizes) growing in project area
- Relatively flat terrain with No Thoroughfare Creek running into the river between bridge spans.

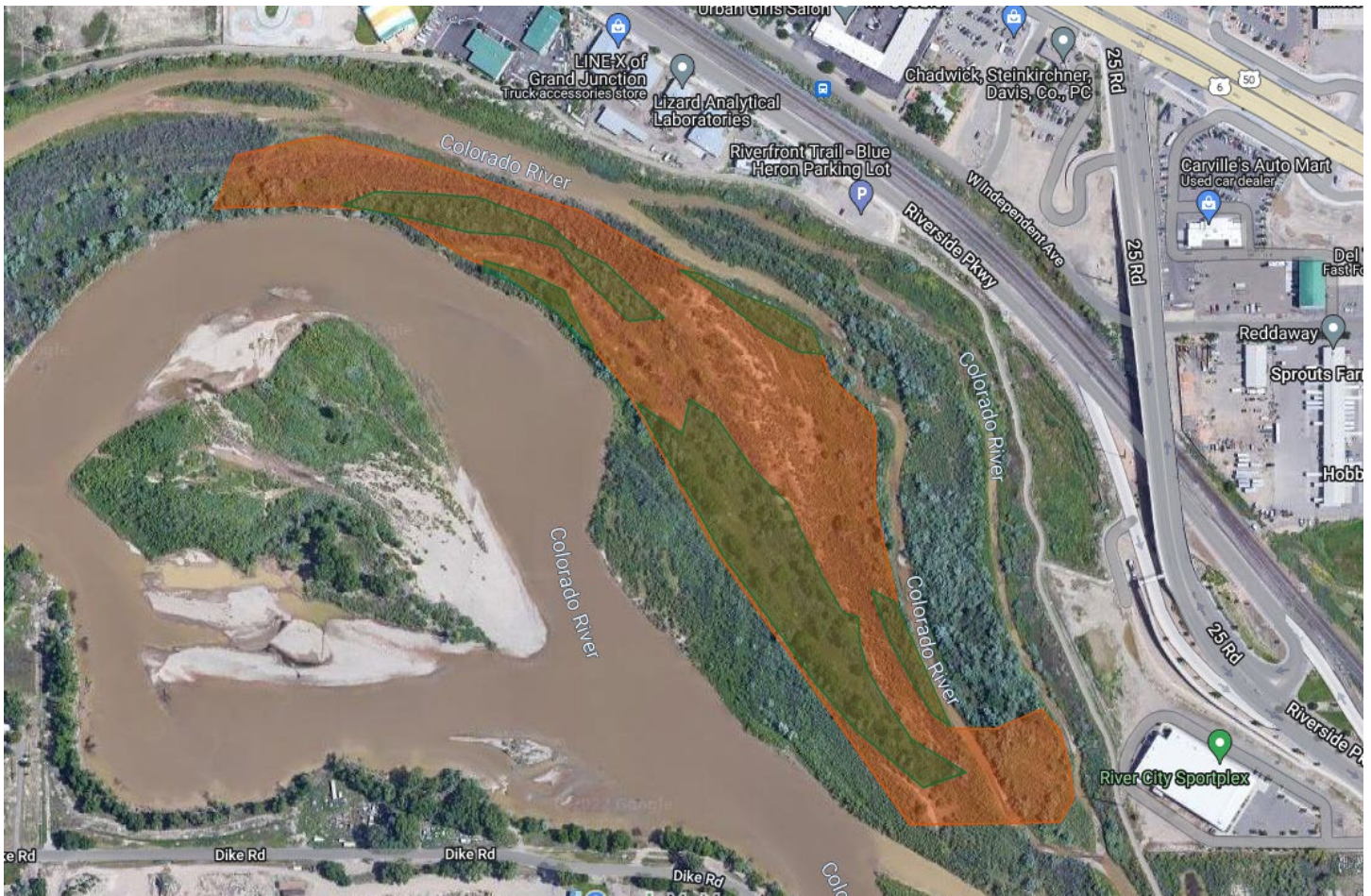
Project prescription:

- The overall goal is to significantly thin fuels in the areas highlighted in orange with priority to remove tamarisk, Russian Olive, and unhealthy elms. Area in green should have a focus of removing ladder fuels around mature cottonwoods or other leave-trees as designated in guidelines.
- On the private property section, the goal is to widen and thin along an existing dirt road. Do not remove vegetation within 10' of a shoreline, or beyond the berm on the river side.
- Green waste will be chipped and scattered on site.

Riverfront Trail Section B

Private (Reece) = 8.55 acres, Private (Matthews)=1.04 acres, City = 5.7acres, Mesa County=2.91 acres; Total = 18.2 acres

Project Area Map



General Notes for project area:

- Access is through public park trail. It is very important to not do any resource damage moving equipment and people across the property to the project area.
- Cottonwood stems and trees near seasonal channels and low spots.
- Very dense Russian olive and tamarisk forest near inner channel
- Lots of dead material in center of project area and approaching the main channel.

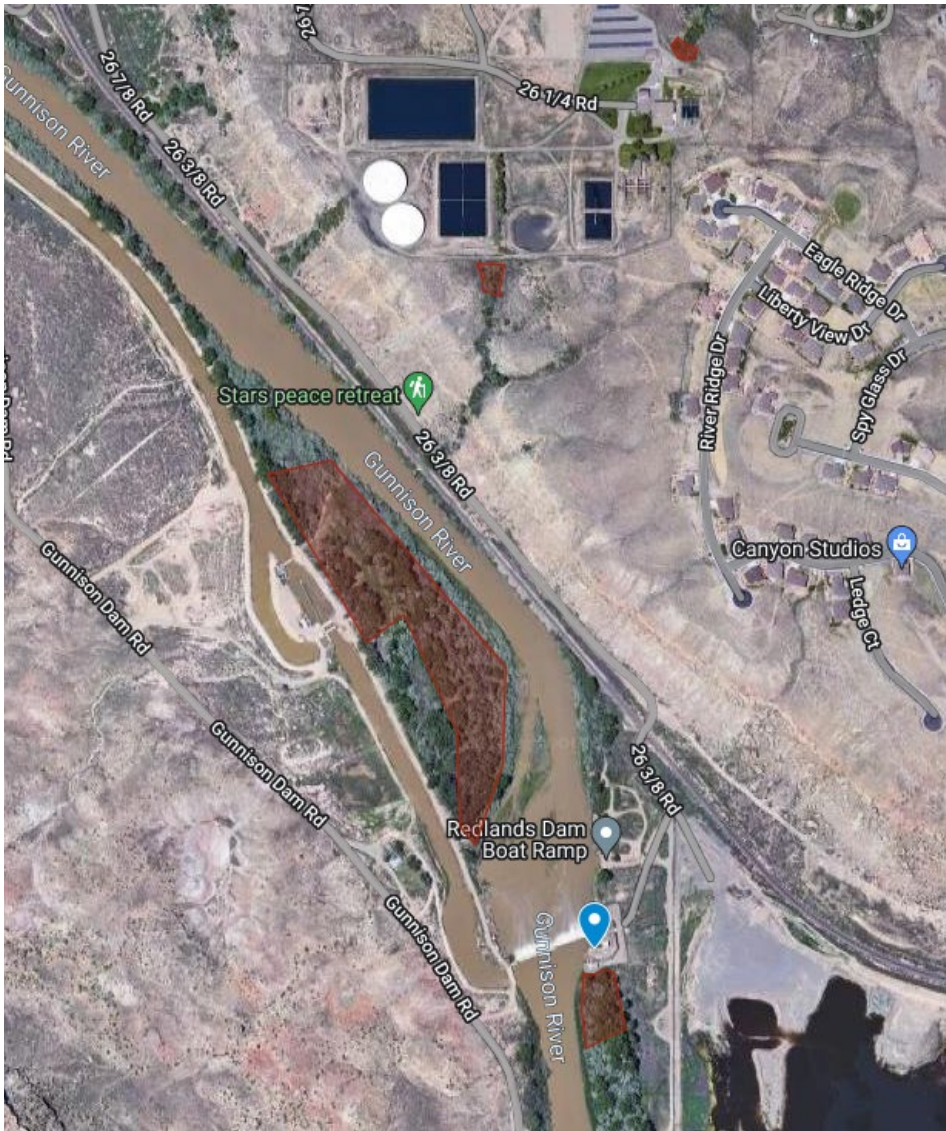
Project prescription:

- Do not remove vegetation on slopes greater than 15%.
- The overall goal is to significantly thin fuels in the areas highlighted in orange, thin along existing trails, remove ladder fuels in areas in green, and provide mosaic canopy separation between clusters of vegetation. Cluster diameter should be **no more than** twice the height of the tallest plant, with clusters spaced **at least** twice the height of the tallest plant in each cluster.
- Green waste will be chipped and scattered.

GJ Water Treatment & Intake Plant

Redlands Water and Power = 10.22 acres City =3.35 acres. Total=12.52 acres

Project Area Map



General Notes for project area:

- Mature cottonwood gallery on southwest site of Gunnison River and by water treatment plant on northeast corner of area. Moderate density understory with well-defined trails
- Varied terrain
- Dense Russian Olive and Tamarisk near river corridor.

Project prescription:

- The overall goal on the southeast island is to create a shaded fuel break along an existing but overgrown dirt road, chip existing piles of timber, and clear the understory among a mature cottonwood gallery.
- The overall goal near the water treatment plant is to create a shaded fuel break between two draws and the treatment plant by eliminating ladder fuels under mature cottonwood and elms.
- The overall goal adjacent to the Gunnison Dam facility is to create defensible space around the facility structures.
- Green waste will be chipped and scattered on site.