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SILVER LAKE COMMUNITY TREE FACT SHEET

Project Summary

Over the past year, the University of Minnesota's McLeod County Extension Office in Hutchinson, Minnesota hosted Minnesota GreenCorps member in urban forestry Shelby Lynn Gamache. Minnesota GreenCorps is an AmeriCorps program run by the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency with the mission of helping communities across Minnesota preserve and protect the environment while training a new generation of environmental professionals. Members are paired with a host site and work with that community on their project over an 11-month service term. The original project description included strengthening McLeod County's preparedness for Emerald Ash Borer and other threats to green infrastructure, working with all willing communities in the county to help them better understand tree identification and the value of increasing species diversification, assisting with tree inventories, and conducting community outreach and education on tree benefits, tree health, and invasive species.

The main reason for hosting a Minnesota GreenCorps member in urban forestry was to help McLeod County be better prepared for Emerald Ash Borer (EAB). This insect is an invasive and very destructive pest to ash trees. Since EAB's discovery in Detroit, Michigan in 2002 it has killed tens of millions of ash trees in the Upper Midwest. There are nearly one billion ash trees in Minnesota, with high concentrations in both urban and natural areas. Nine counties in Minnesota have now been confirmed to have EAB infestations.

The communities within these infested areas must make decisions on how they are going to best manage EAB. An inventory of a community's trees is required to prepare for this, and other pests and diseases. Inventories give communities access to information on tree diversity, relative age and size of trees, and relative condition of public trees. This information allows communities to create management plans where they may minimize losses and create more diverse, healthier urban landscapes.

Minnesota GreenCorps member Shelby Lynn Gamache coordinated tree inventories in four communities in McLeod County: Glencoe, Lester Prairie, Plato, and Silver Lake. Volunteers from each community were trained on how to conduct tree inventories and helped complete a share of the inventory in their community. Data was collected for both private (residential and business) and public (boulevards, parks, and government owned) property and will help McLeod County better understand its urban forests and prepare for EAB. All spreadsheets are available upon request by contacting Shelby Lynn Gamache at gama0020 or (651) 271-1966.

Inventory Results Overview:

Total number of Trees: 2,346

Percentage of all Trees that are Ash:

Total: 19%

On Public Property: 32%

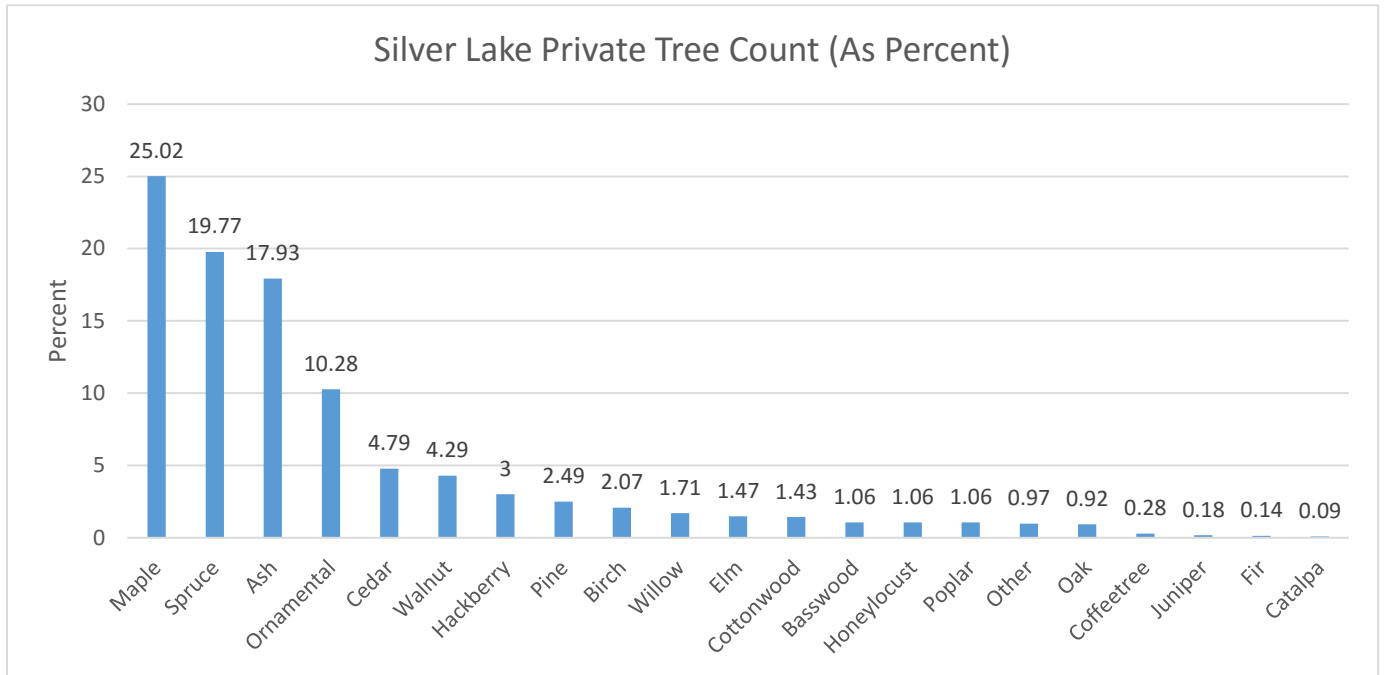
On Private Property: 18%

Average size (age) of Public Trees: 10-15 inch DBH

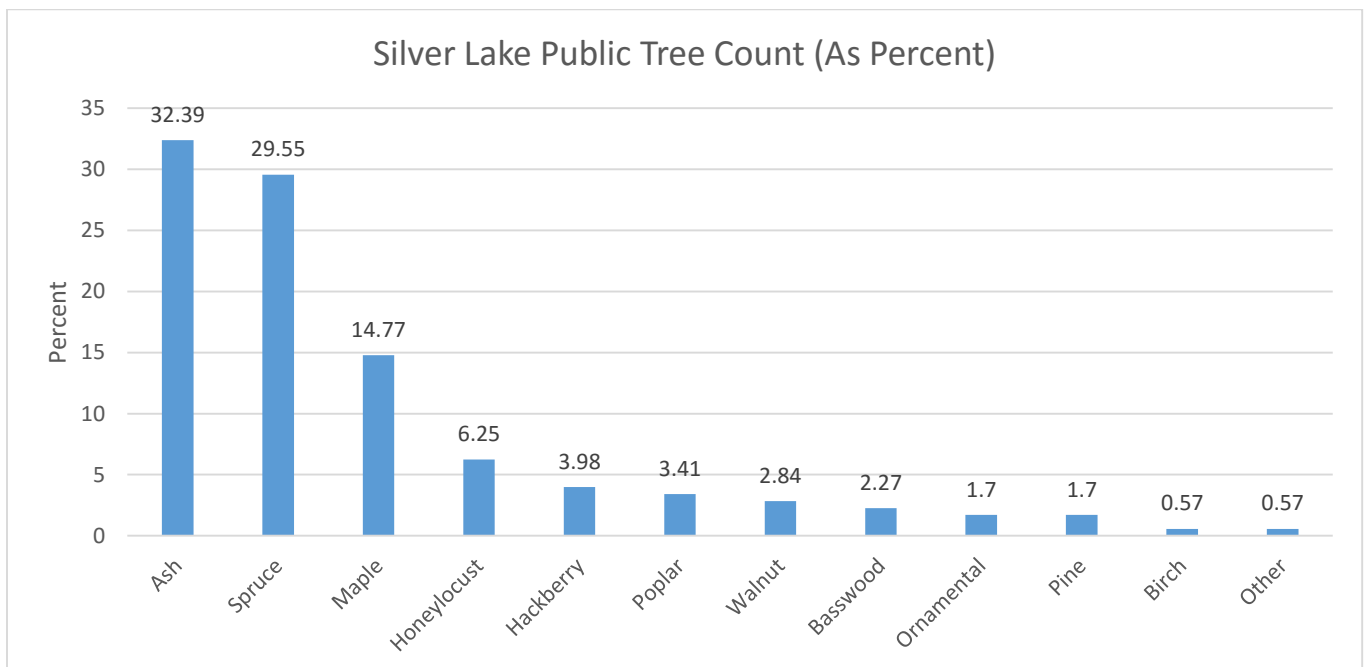
Average size (age) of Private Trees: 4-9 inch DBH

Number of tree species representing 5% or more of the total population (species diversity): 4

Data Summary: Community Tree Population by Ownership

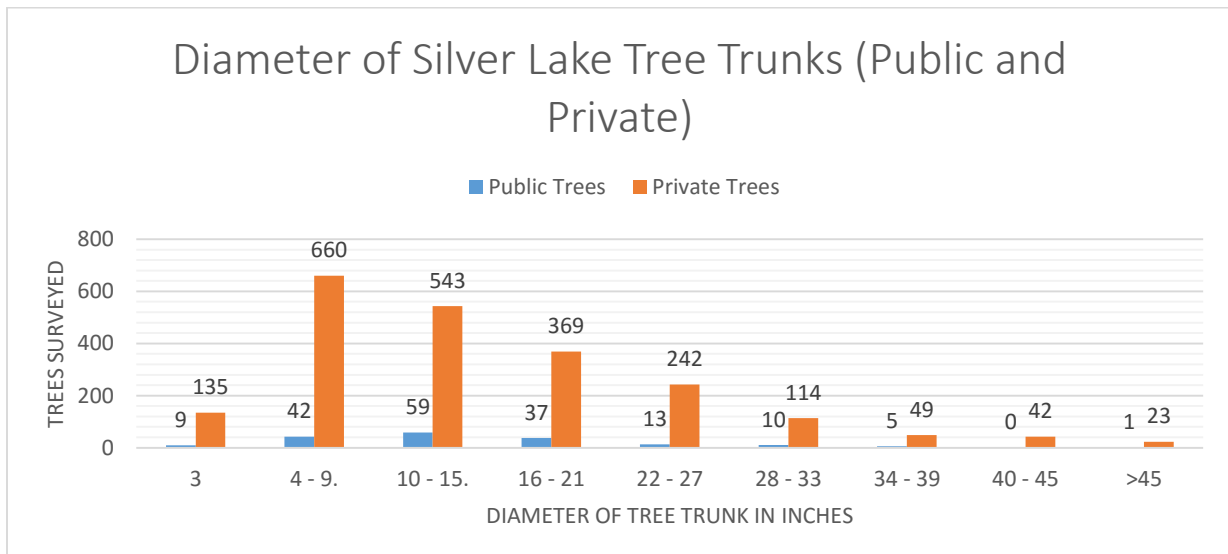
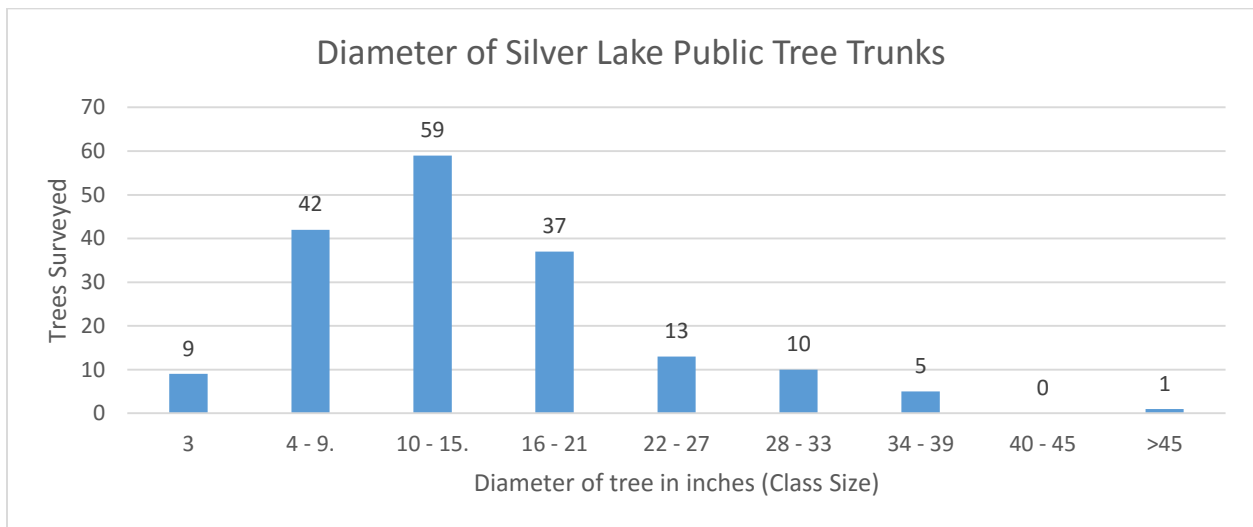
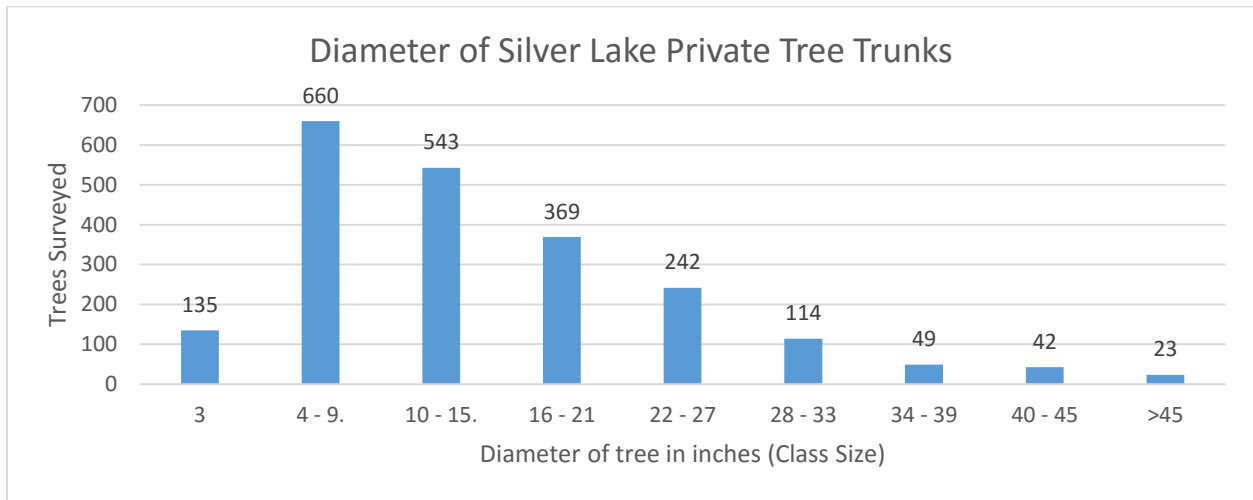


Total Number of Private Trees: 2170



Total Number of Public Trees: 176

Data Summary: Community Tree Size Classes—Trunk Diameter Class by Ownership



Helpful Resources

1. The EAB Cost Calculator: <http://extension.entm.purdue.edu/treecomputer/> . This free, online software allows communities to calculate the cost of removing ash trees, chemically treating ash trees, or a combination of both for EAB management plans with the information collected from tree inventories.
2. Tree Information Selective to Minnesota: www.extension.umn.edu/garden/yard-garden/trees-shrubs/ . This page offers information on selecting trees for certain areas of the state and specific sites, tree identification, tree care and maintenance, environmental stresses, insects, and diseases of trees, and invasive woody plants.
3. Up-to-date Information on Emerald Ash Borer: www.mda.state.mn.us/emeraldashborer .
4. Upcoming Events, Trainings, and Courses on trees: www.myminnesotawoods.umn.edu .

Acknowledgements

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Silver Lake Community Volunteers: Mike Bahe, Connie Kratzke, Duane Stensvad, Roxanne Stensvad, and Neil Syvertson