

2001-04-01 - Logging Continues in Palisades Park

Although they got started late, the City's logging project seems to be catching up to speed.



As Jim Flott, the City's Arborist, shared with us several times over the past few months, the project started alongside the 5-acre test plot logged last spring by St. Maries logger, Chuck Taggart. The logger contracted with this spring, Scott Moe Logging out of Rice, WA. began with the hillsides around the previous horse- rental stable area. His directive was to take only marketable timber which was dead or dying and create a stockpile accessible to the road for the trucker contracted to haul these logs to the mill. A third party has been contracted to come along behind with a chipper and clear the slash and smaller, unmarketable trees which need to be removed.

The first equipment came into the park late in February, and we've seen several extensions to the original plan since that time, with work progressing nicely.

Although there have been areas damaged by the wet ground and heavy equipment, the contractors are conscientiously maintaining a barrier between the public access road and their internal trails, preventing off-road abuse and dumping which has been problematic in the past.

2002-01-17 - Selective logging Resumes in Palisades Park

A logging company that left deep wheel ruts in the forest floor of Palisades Park last spring is back on the job this month, removing more dead timber.

The damage drew complaints last June from some park users who were angered to see knee-deep ruts caused by the selective logging work. Those complaints led to city assurances that the area would be reseeded to prevent noxious weeds from taking root where the soil was disturbed. City officials and neighborhood leaders said they have talked with the logger about avoiding damage to the delicate plant life in Palisades Park this year. "We'll try to work with him and keep an eye on where they are working," said Robbi Castleberry, who lives near the conservation park land along Rimrock Drive, west of downtown.

Castleberry and other members of the Palisades Organization neighborhood group have been calling for better management of conservation lands. They supported removal of beetle-infested trees to reduce the spread of the outbreak.

They are also asking the city to make good on its promise for reseeded disturbed areas. The city hired a Colville, Wash., logger a year ago to remove conifers killed by infestations of bark beetles, both to Most of the work was done without damaging the forest floor, in part because it took place when the ground was frozen last winter.

About \$40,000 from the sale of logs offset the cost of the logging and provided some money for forestry efforts citywide.

Jim Flott, the city's urban forester, said the logger was hired to finish removing beetle-killed trees and to clear a fire-safe zone where park land meets residential properties.

The city received \$68,000 in grant money from a fire protection program to remove small timber and undergrowth that could provide fuels for wildfires at Palisades and Wyakin parks, Flott said.

Wyakin Park is another conservation property owned by the city north of Francis at Assembly.

Some of the growth that needs to be removed is in the form of overcrowded and spindly pine trees called "dog-hair thickets."

"The real major impact of this is public safety," he said.

A program called Fire Safe Spokane is providing the funding, which came originally from a congressional allotment for Western fire suppression.

Small trees being removed under the Fire Safe grant will be chipped and spread on the land to return nutrients to the soil, Flott said.

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