

TOWN OF OCEAN VIEW
DELAWARE

August 7, 2020

TO: Mayor and Council

FROM: Carol S. Houck, Town Manager 

SUBJECT: Colt Lane Park – Storm Damage – Emergency Tree Work Scheduled

Background

The recent tropical storm that hit our area on Tuesday, August 4, 2020 hit Colt Lane Park's trees very hard. The area is now in need of being addressed immediately in association with the unsafe situation.

This area was scheduled for tree trimming and dead wooding this spring. It has not received the attention it needs in some time and we were going to attempt to begin addressing issues. The area is a passive park area/open space.

Work Required at this Time

Our tree contract company Local Tree Experts will be:

- Removing storm damaged limbs and debris
- Remove standing and damaged trees
- Remove leaning trees partially uprooted
- Complete a full dead wooding of remaining trees (also referred to as widow makers)
- Inspect remaining trees for signs of cracking and stress caused by the storm event

A crane will be utilized in completing this work. Local Tree Experts are expected to be here Saturday to start this work.

Costs Associated with this Work

The total cost for the above noted work is \$8,500 and has been approved to facilitate our addressing hazards associated with the conditions of the trees in this area and manage risk for the Town.

Funding

Funds were not budgeted in our tree budget to cover this level of work at Colt Lane Park. The costs will be tracked along with any other from the tropical storm and submitted for reimbursement from any funds that become available given the storm event was deemed a State of Emergency by Governor Carney.

It is our plan to code this work to our "DPW Other Services" line item – for Colt Lane, so that we can track it separately and make appropriate budget line item decisions next year to begin to address this park and its trees more proactively.

At the end of the year, if necessary, these funds will be available from our unrestricted fund balance and will be brought to Council when the fiscal year is closed.

As an aside, while John West Park experienced one damaged pine tree and was scattered with small limbs and leaves, it fared very well to some extent because of our early spring extensive catch-up with dead wooding and large stressed branch removal. We will continue to have that work performed each spring.

Below are some photo's I took directly after the storm moved through at Colt Lane Park:

