To Date

October 25, 2010

2 pages from Jeanette Merrick



The Tree Appraisal Workshop was held October 25, 2010. The event was organized by CropHealth Advising & Research for the ISA PNW chapter. The speaker was Verna Mumby of Mumby's Tree Services http://www.treelady.ca/.

The 30 participants included industry consultants, commercial tree care providers and city arborists from Kamloops, Kelowna and Penticton.

The one-day workshop reviewed the processes of plant appraisal as outlined in the "Guide for Plant Appraisal, 9thEdition" ISA 2000.

Summary

History of tree appraisal began in 1905 when the University of Michigan first placed monetary values on their trees.

Since then the Council of Tree & Landscape Appraisers have established 3 approaches to value: Cost, Income and Market approaches.

This workshop focused on the use of the trunk formula in a cost approach method.

Plant Appraisal

Plant appraisal can be used for situations that require a value to be applied to the plants in a landscape after damages due to storms, construction and failure.

Appraisals are found to be useful for urban forests such as public parks, plant inventories, maintenance budgeting, property values, liability issues.

Field report forms printed on file folders are available from ISA and maybe useful in recording details. Complete documentation is critical including history and ownership.

Detail information about the site, plant(s) location, health and species.

Cost Approach

Cost of repair method can be used for plants whose quality could be returned to near its predamaged condition with proper treatments.

Cost of cure method should be used in situations where the plant cannot be repaired but treatments can be applied to return the property to a reasonable level of original condition.

Both methods require that the size, species, condition of the plant be assessed as well as the location and value on the property.

The size of a tree is determined by measurements. The other factors are subjective and each is expressed as a percentage determined by the appraiser relative to what would be considered a 'high-quality' specimen.

Species value is a set percentage based on the knowledge and opinions of regional arborists in which the appraisal is being determined. The Pacific Northwest Chapter of the ISA recommends species value for interior and coastal areas.

Condition of a plant is determined by evaluating the present structural integrity and state of health.

Location involves the property and any unique functional and aesthetic contributions of the plant placement.

Trunk Formula

The trunk formula method is used to appraise the value of trees that are too large to be replaced with nursery or field-grown stock. This includes the cost of removal (damages), purchasing a replacement tree and the costs for installation and maintenance for a reasonable amount of time.