

Tree Spade reported to raise 'livability rate'

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for dealing with the situation."

Gensmer's decision stems from both a company-wide commitment to preserving the pristine appearance of Eden Prairie, and from an ordinance on the township's books which makes tree-cutting for development purposes a somewhat costly proposition.

"Eden Prairie is a leader in the Twin Cities' efforts to ensure that portions of the area retain a decidedly rural feel," Gensmer explained.

"The ordinance in question said that for every inch-diameter of tree cut, an equal inch-diameter of new tree must be replanted."

Faced with the possibility of replacing approximately 2,500 trees — roughly about 11,000 diameter-inches worth — Bearpath contracted with Mulligan's, a regional firm specializing in a wide range of landscaping, land clearing, and site preparation projects. In its first month on-site, the Northfield, Minn.-based firm moved more than 1,200 trees.

Said company President Terry Mulligan, once a plan was established determining what trees needed to be moved, the rest fell into place nicely.

"We are one of a handful of the original companies in the Twin Cities area to do this kind of work," said Mulligan. "For the straightforward uprooting/movement/re-planting procedures, the process is actually quite simple. We use a Vermeer 6600 Tree Spade, a truck-mounted tool designed specifically for applications such as this.

"The tree spade encircles the trunk of the tree to be moved, wets the base area, and — using hydraulically-assisted, chain-driven spades — cuts and excavates the tree's roots, making it ready for movement and transplanting.

"In the removal process, the curved design of the spades creates a well-formed, top-heavy, ball of exposed roots — a key element in helping ensure tree survivability after replanting."

Depending upon the distance to the new site, each tree handled in this phase of the project took about five minutes to move. When compared with manual removal, this afforded the developers a tremendous savings in labor and time, said Mulligan.

"Removing the trees by hand — that is, digging, removing and wrapping the roots in burlap prior to movement — would have easily taken about two hours per tree," he said. "The process is extremely labor-intensive and, consequently, costly."

For situations where a new planting site was not immediately available, Mulligan established holding areas in which trees were planted until a permanent site

became available. Several areas around the development, including the tree nursery, served this purpose.

In the holding areas, Mulligan helped alleviate any ill effects the trees might suffer as a result of the move by following a routine of fertilization, watering and — to help the tree retain moisture — bark mulching of the area surrounding each tree.

"We go to extra lengths to enhance conditions," he said.

"However, we also have established a 95-98 percent livability rate for trees we move, so the extra care does, indeed, pay off.

"It kept project costs in that area down," he continued.

"Based upon a widely-accepted value of \$100 per diameter-inch, tree removal could have cost the Bearpath team better than \$1.1 million in replacement charges. Even with our fee included, they easily saved more than half that amount."

Gilmore Graves projects opening

SPRING GREEN, Wis. — Gilmore Graves Golf, Inc. a design, construction, and management company with offices here, Phoenix, Ariz., and Pierre, S.D., is anticipating a busy 1994.

Several 1993 projects opened during the summer. Prairie du Chien Country Club opened this spring, while Irish Waters Golf Club in Freedom, Wis., Hiawatha Golf Club in Tomah, Wis., and Fox Hollow Golf Club, outside LaCrosse, were expected to open this summer. Hiawatha Golf Club is a nine-hole addition design/construction project, while the others are design/supervision developments.

Construction of an 18-hole design of Dorr's Prairie Woods, east of Janesville, will be completed this year, with the opening set for 1995.

Wisconsin projects are design/construction of nine holes at Tyranera Golf Club in Lake Mills, design/construction of 18 holes at Pine Hills Golf Club for the Mohican Tribe, near Gresham, plus design/construction of 18 holes at Martha's Orchard Golf Club north of West Bend.

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