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Workers get crash course in assessing tree damage

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Standing in the shade of a silver maple, Skip Kincaid assessed the tree's structural integrity.

"Don't leave any of the lines blank," he said, holding up a work sheet. "Make sure you put something on every line."

Kincaid, the forestry commissioner for the city of St. Louis, led a tree risk assessment workshop Tuesday for more than 20 tree workers and arborists at the Prairie Loft Center for Outdoor and Agricultural Education.

The one-day class is a boiled down version of the longer three-day certification program for arborists provided through the International Society of Arboriculture.

Tuesday's program was hosted by the Nebraska Forestry Service for non-certified arborists including city employees, college employees and extension educators.

"You get out into central and western Nebraska and you have a lot of folks who wear multiple hats for their community," said Graham Herbst, a community forester for the Nebraska Forest Service. "They're not just tree workers. They do lots of other things. Yet, it's important training to make available for them when the certified arborist track isn't very accessible or realistic."

To read more, see Wednesday's Hastings Tribune or the Tribune e-edition.>>



Laura Beahm/Tribune
A tree risk awareness workshop attendee looks over an assessment form while the group examines a silver maple tree Tuesday at Prairie Loft.

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