

MEMO



Engineering Department

To: Plan Commission
From: John Neumeier – DPW/City Engineer
Date: 4/12/2024
Re: Park Reforestation Plans and 2024 Inflation Reduction Act Urban Forestry Grant Letter of Support

Several City parks have been negatively affected by emerald ash borer beetle damage and subsequent tree removal. Some of the worst areas include Grignon Park, White City Park, Strassburg Park, and 1000 Islands. City staff met and walked some of these areas earlier this year to get a feel for the extent of damage and to start developing a reforestation plan for each area. AP Lily Paul has created the plans/maps attached. We are incorporating a variety of trees and shrubs to provide resiliency, shade, habitat, screening, and bird and pollinator interest. We will ask for your input and any recommendations at the meeting.

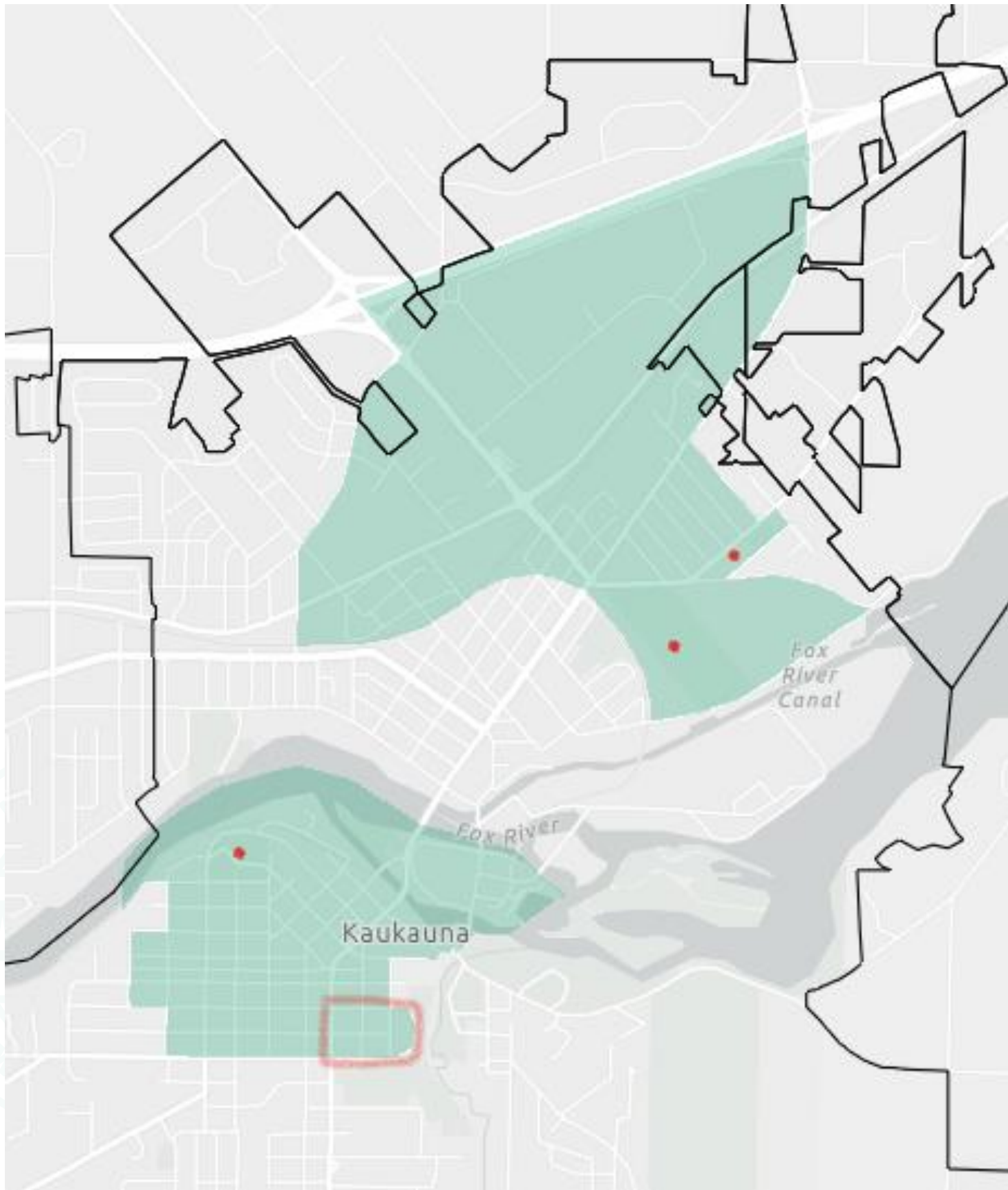
In addition to the City funds allocated for these projects, we are also looking for grant opportunities to stretch our dollars and make bigger impacts. A new grant opportunity was brought to our attention, and we are looking for support from this board as part of the application process.

From DNR: The Urban Forestry Inflation Reduction Act (UF IRA) Grant program uses federal funds to support projects that positively impact trees and people within disadvantaged communities in Wisconsin.

- Grants range from \$1,000 to \$500,000 and require no match.
- Projects must take place in or benefit people living in disadvantaged communities. (See green shaded areas of the map on the next page.)
 - Opportunities
 - Grignon Park
 - Strassberg Park
 - LaFollette Park
 - 2024 Paving Project
- Grant projects may cover a duration up to 3 years from the project start date.
- Procurement: Federal grant dollars are subject to the Code of Federal Regulation (CFR).

Staff Recommendation

Approve the planting and reforestation plans and authorize the Mayor to send a letter of support for the 2024 Inflation Reduction Act Urban Forestry Grant from the Plan Commission.



DRAFT LETTER OF SUPPORT

April 18, 2024

John W. Neumeier
Director of Public Works/City Engineer
City of Kaukauna
144 West Second Street, PO Box 890
Kaukauna, WI 54130-0890

Re: Letter of Support for the 2024 Inflation Reduction Act Urban Forestry Grant

Dear Mr. Neumeier:

The Kaukauna Plan Commission supports the City of Kaukauna's desire to apply for a 2024 Inflation Reduction Act Urban Forestry Grant from the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR) for reforestation efforts within disadvantaged communities. City staff has developed reforestation plans for several City Parks that will help restore areas impacted by emerald ash borer beetle and will provide habitat and interest to birds, small mammals, and pollinators, creating a healthy natural element within our urban areas.

The Plan Commission recognizes that urban trees and forests are vital to creating and maintaining a healthy, livable community by providing many social, economic, and environmental benefits to people. The ability to reduce air pollution and stormwater runoff, decrease energy consumption, mitigate the heat island effect, and improve human health are just a few of the essential services trees provide to communities. Neighborhood trees have shown the ability to reduce stress, improve overall health and development in children, and encourage physical activity.

We support the grant application as the grant funds will assist in the reestablishment of damaged park areas in disadvantaged communities, will benefit all residents using the parks, and will make a positive impact on biodiversity, stormwater management, habitat, and provide bird and pollinator interest within the City of Kaukauna.

Sincerely,

Mayor Anthony J. Penterman
City of Kaukauna Plan Commission

