

ReLeaf Community Forestry Grants

2023 Application



Please refer to the Request for Applications (RFA) when completing this application.

Submit this form, along with required attachments, to ucf.dnr@state.mn.us by Sep. 18, 2023. Checklist:

- Application Form (filled out, guided by the RFA)
- Budget Form (Attachment A)
- 3-Year Tree Maintenance Plan, *if planting trees* (Attachment B)
- Species Selection and Stock List, *if planting trees* (follow guidelines in RFA)
- EAB Management Plan, *if already completed*
- Letter of Support, *if collaborating with an outside organization* (any format acceptable)

Local Unit of Government (LUG)	City of Marshall
Project Coordinator	Preston Stensrud
Coordinator Title	Park & Recreation Superintendent
Address	344 West Main Street
City, State, Zip	Marshall, MN 56258
County	Lyon
Coordinator Email	preston.stensrud@ci.marshall.mn.us
Coordinator Phone Number	507-537-6786
Grant Amount Requested	\$329,080.00
Cash Match (refer to RFA for match guidance)	\$0
In-Kind Match	\$0
Total Project Cost (Grant Amount + Match)	\$329,080.00

Have you received a DNR community forestry grant in the past? Yes No Don't Know

Is this application limited to serving a community, or communities, with populations less than 20,000? Yes No

(To encourage applications from smaller communities across Minnesota, points will be awarded to grants that serve communities with populations less than 20,000)

Project Overview and Need (30 points; 2,050 character maximum including spaces) *Provide a summary of the project, why this funding is needed, what project work will not happen without these grant funds, and expected outcomes. Include a description of project locations (citywide project, boulevards, specific parks, etc.). A successful application will demonstrate a readiness to take on a project of the proposed scope and size, and will prioritize emerald ash borer, and/or the preservation and maintenance/increase of canopy cover.*

The City of Marshall is the county seat of Lyon County and recently discovered and confirmed the arrival of Emerald Ash Borer in our community in June of 2023. Since this discovery, word has spread throughout the community and surrounding areas, the city has been receiving calls and emails daily from concerned citizens about options for their ash trees.

The City of Marshall would like to accomplish several objectives with this grant funding that simply wouldn't be possible due to budget constraints.

Focus #1: Tree removals and plantings in right-of-ways in low-income areas of our community. We would remove 75 unhealthy ash trees on the right-of-way with those posing any safety risks being our first priority. These removals would be done using City of Marshall staff. We would propose to plant 2 new trees for each tree removed. In the event a property owner is not wanting new trees on the right-of-way of their property, the remaining trees would be planted in various parks. Maintenance trimming and pruning will also be done on healthy trees. Currently 635 ash trees on City right-of-way in Marshall.

Focus #2: Offering reimbursements for tree removals including the stumps of ash trees on low-income property as well as reimbursement for planting new, approved, trees. These residents would be required to show proof of the work done as well as receipts and inspection of sites. We understand tree care can be expensive and place a burden on these residents and well as pose potential hazards if the trees aren't removed.

Focus #3: Provide educational opportunities for our residents to become more engaged in tree care by offering reimbursement for anyone interested in becoming a Tree Inspector through the U of MN program.

Focus #4: Treatment of healthy ash trees in our parks by City staff. Goal of 100 trees per year, treated every other year.

Project Timeline (15 points; 2,600 character maximum including spaces) *Describe the approximate project schedule showing intermediate steps and milestones for activities described in this application or required by the RFA. A successful timeline will provide specific dates, is easy to comprehend, and will follow EAB best management practices.*

If the City of Marshall is selected for this grant we would be prepared to start ash tree removals on right-of-ways in January 2024 and all removals will be completed during the winter months when EAB isn't active and following the EAB best practices. These removals will continue each winter until completion of proposed 75 removals ideally by April 2026 but could potentially continue into winter of '26-'27 if needed.

All new tree plantings would be done in the late fall of each year using diverse varieties that are known to perform well in our community to be completed no later than the fall of 2026. The goal would be to plant 50 new trees in the fall of 2024, 2025, and 2026 for a total of 150 trees and maintaining our 2:1 ratio of new trees planted to ash trees removed.

For the removals on low-income properties for reimbursements, we would provide them information on best practices for the removals as well as the plantings and provide them information on contractors and species types that perform well in Marshall soils. All sites would be inspected upon the request for reimbursement by property owners.

We are working towards ash tree conservation as part of an integrated approach to managing emerald ash borer, including possible treatments for significant trees. Treatments of ash trees in the parks would be done mostly in the spring (May) of each year starting in 2024 with the goal to complete 100 selected ash trees each year using ArborMectin (emamectin benzoate) by certified staff. These treatments would be maintained on a 2 year timeline to maintain resistance to Emerald Ash Borer in selected trees.

Any community members wanted to become Tree Inspectors we would be very flexible in the timing and only reimburse upon successful completion of the course.

Project Budget Explanation (10 points; 2,200 character maximum including spaces)

Provide additional remarks to clarify the budget request. Provide an explanation of how you are funding portions of your project that are not eligible with grant dollars. A successful budget will provide specific dollar amounts for anticipated use, be financially realistic, and cost effective. Budget attachment will be correctly calculated. Projects that plant more trees than they remove will score higher.

-The City of Marshall is seeking a total of \$329,080.00 in grant funding to remove 75 unhealthy ash trees on right-of-ways, treat healthy ash trees in parks, plant 150 new trees on public property, promote our citizens to become more knowledgeable on identify trees and the importance of them, and providing information and public outreach to our community. The cost estimated cost to remove 75 large, unhealthy ash trees by city staffing is \$638 per tree including removal, stump grinding, and leveling for a total of \$47,850. The anticipated cost to plant 150 new diverse species of trees 1.5" in caliper by city staff is \$319.80 including the purchase of the tree and labor to plant, mulch, and water at time of planting. The total cost of new planting on public property is \$47,970.

-Tree reimbursements for removals and new plantings on low-income properties would be capped at 400 ash tree removals at \$200 per tree for a total of \$80,000. New plantings to stay with our 2:1 ratio equates to 800 new trees planted at \$100 per tree for a total of \$80,000.

-Treatment of 100 park trees per year by staff would be \$43.15 per tree averaging 90mL of product per tree and staff time for a total of \$4,315.00 per year x 4 years = \$17,260.00. (injector already City owned)

-Tree Inspector Program Course completion would be eligible for 20 residents at \$50 each for a total of \$1,000.

-The City would also like to purchase 1,000 tree gator watering bags as part of this grant to put on all the new trees planted for a total of \$25,000. We have used these for several years and have found them to be very advantageous and high success rates for tree survival.

-\$20,000 for Arborist/Forestry Consulting for reviewing/updating our EAB Plan and strategic planning.

-\$10,000 for printed materials such as brochures and pamphlets that would be available to the public at numerous high traffic businesses in Marshall. Would also run full page ads in local newspaper on EAB.

Project Impacts on Priority Populations (20 points; 2,200 character maximum including spaces)

This grant opportunity aligns with state initiatives to reduce disparities in health and environmental quality for diverse populations. A successful proposal will show planning and collaboration that clearly serves and includes areas of concern for environmental justice. The applicant will describe actionable items for these communities, how these communities will be engaged through the project, and how their input will be incorporated throughout the project.

In 2020, the City of Marshall completed a survey of ash trees located in City Parks, right-of-ways, school grounds, Southwest MN State University, and the golf course. The total number of trees observed in these areas was 7,353 of which, 1,732 were ash trees or 23.5%.

This project is focused mainly on removing ash trees and planting new trees on right-of-ways in the community. The majority of our ash trees on right-of-ways on in the central part of the City where you will also find a lot of our lower income residents and older housing. According to the US Census Bureau and as reported on the MPCA Environmental Justice website, at least 35% of people in the city of Marshall reported income less than 200% of the federal poverty level and up to 54% in certain areas of the city.

22% of the population is non-white; \$53,138 household income compared to \$77,706 for the State of Minnesota; and 7.4% of the population of Marshall for those under 65 do not have health insurance compared to 5.3% for the State of Minnesota.

The reimbursement program for tree removals and new plantings will certainly have an impact on these residents as we look to increase tree canopies in the specific areas of town.

Communication (8 points; 2,200 character maximum including spaces) *Describe the methods you will use to conduct outreach to residents about this grant project. A successful communication strategy will use multiple formats that have the potential to reach the public, and will incorporate EAB-related messaging.*

The City of Marshall will develop a communication plan by outlining and prioritizing target groups, intended messages and all possible media delivery systems. Communication with the public and industry professionals to foster cooperation and maximize effective response is essential. We will also work with all property owners on right-of-ways removals and plantings as our standard practice. We can also utilize Marshall Municipal Utilities as they send out billing inserts to everyone monthly on information regarding the grant and Emerald Ash Borer.

Public information has been provided since the confirmation of EAB in the City of Marshall earlier this summer. We plan to add information to our website that the public can look to for frequently asked questions, options with their trees, and just general information.

The City has an approved Ash tree replacement plan as well as an up to date tree inventory that includes all public property, the golf course, and the school district property that will be key in tracking and it updated each year and these will be additional tools to rely on throughout the proposed grant request.

The funding for Arborist/Forestry Consulting will be used to assist with providing proper material delivery to media, help with public notices and communication while providing training in response operations.

Key Personnel (8 points; 2,200 character maximum including spaces) *List all certifications and degrees for staff or contractors involved in the project. Describe the duties internal staff will conduct, and any work that will be contracted out, or the partnerships you will leverage to complete tasks. Include key personnel and their past experience with similar tasks. If you expect to contract work out, describe requirements you will have for contractors.*

Preston Stensrud, Park and Recreation Superintendent, has managed overseen two other DNR grants for Emerald Ash Borer and will be coordinating the planning, logistics, mapping, and tracking of all focus point within our grant request. He is a First Detector and graduated from Southeast Technical Institute in Sioux Falls with an Associates Degree in Sports Turf Management and Landscape Construction. He is also a certified pesticide applicator in MN and has attended numerous trainings associated with tree work and specifically EAB. Staff will also provide proper information the the public and property owners as it relates to timing of tree removals, tips for successful planting including tree selection for specific sites. We have several experienced contractors within our community that are always willing to help, the City doesn't plan to hire any contractors for removals or planting but will certainly be able to provide feedback to property owners of the low-income areas for reimbursements on recommended contractors we have worked with. New trees are purchased from a local nursery and provide a 2 year warranty on tree plantings for City projects.

Upon the completion of new plantings staff will educate on proper maintenance and pruning of new trees as the new tree adapts to the site.