

Sustainable Sheboygan Task Force Letter of Collaboration: Wisconsin DNR 2024 Urban Forestry Inflation Reduction Grant

May 8, 2024

Dear grant reviewer,

We write in support of a partnership between the City of Sheboygan and our organization, the Sustainable Sheboygan Task Force to implement an Urban Forestry Grant. The Sustainable Sheboygan Task Force is a twelve person citizens' committee which develops strategies to be adopted by the City of Sheboygan for creating and maintaining a sustainable Sheboygan, focusing on such topics as conservation, sustainability, climate change, and raising community awareness on environmental stewardship. As citizens of the City we support the grant application. We were involved in the planning for the grant and are now committing to assisting the City of Sheboygan by participating in the outreach to community members in the disadvantaged areas covered by the grant. We are volunteering to go to neighborhood meetings and to school PTOs in the areas covered by the grant. We are willing to listen to community feedback about the grant and to educate community members in the care of the trees that will be planted.

We see our participation in the grant as an opportunity to fulfill our mission to maintain a sustainable Sheboygan, especially in those areas seeking environmental justice. Benefits of the grant for Sheboygan include heat mitigation, improving our air quality, assisting in storm water management, educating the community on sustainability issues, encouraging the community to volunteer in the care of trees, and making our neighborhoods more desirable places to walk or ride bicycles.

On behalf of the Sustainable Sheboygan Task Force I am authorized to indicate our support and willingness to continue to collaborate with the City upon grant approval.

Sincerely,

James P Van Akkeren, Chairperson Sustainable Sheboygan Task Force

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