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**TO:** Kate Thunstrom, City Administrator  
**FROM:** Paul Carpenter, Public Works Director  
**SUBJECT:** DNR ReLeaf Community Forest 2023 Grant Program  
**DATE:** January 2, 2024

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**OVERVIEW:**

The ReLeaf Grant Program is one step toward achieving climate-resilient communities identified in the Minnesota Climate Action Framework by planting and maintaining a diverse and sustainable community tree canopy. The Framework's goal is to achieve 30% overall tree canopy cover in communities across Minnesota by the year 2030 and 40% by 2050. The program had \$6.8 million available and there were 151 applicants from across the state.

In late September the Public Works Streets and Parks Department applied for the DNR ReLeaf Community Forest 2023 Grant Program. The program is designed to assist cities in abating the Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) damage with removal of, tree injections, and replanting to replace dying/sick Ash trees. The DNR has awarded the City of St. Francis \$147,797.75 with no cash match and an In-kind match of \$42,500.00 for a total of \$190,297.75. The Grant money will be used over the next two years to mitigate EAB damage. The grant money will also be used in conjunction with our EAB plan which includes planting trees in our parks to increase tree canopy that are lacking shaded space.

**ACTION TO BE CONSIDERED:**

Council to approve the Mayor to sign the DNR ReLeaf Contract Agreement.

**BUDGET IMPLICATION:**

The City's in-kind match portion of this grant will be worked off during regular business hours with no additional budget implication.

Attachments:

- State of Minnesota Grant Contract Agreement
- Exhibit A: Grant Project Deliverables
- Exhibit B: Project Budget
- DNR 3-year Maintenance Plan Template for Newly Planted Trees
- DNR Conflict of Interest Disclosure