

City of Two Rivers
Parks and Recreation Department
Authorization Resolution to Apply for WI DNR Urban Forestry Grant Q & A

1. What are we applying for?

The Parks and Recreation Department would like to pursue an Urban Forestry grant through the Wisconsin DNR. This grant will fund a city-wide tree inventory, urban forestry management plan, staff forestry training, and potentially removal of ash trees and planting of new trees. We will utilize an outside forestry consultant for the inventory and planning. City staff will likely execute any tree removal and planting. The total project cost will be \$50,000. The DNR will provide a \$25,000 grant and the city is required to provide a match of \$25,000.

2. Why does this need authorization?

The DNR requires that governing bodies pass an authorizing resolution to show their support for the cost-share aspect of the grant before applying.

3. What issue are we trying to address?

- Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) is an invasive insect that kills ash trees by cutting off the flow of water and nutrients as larvae eat the living tissue under the bark. Two Rivers likely has hundreds of ash trees in street terraces, parks, and city properties. As ash trees die and decay, they can become major safety and liability issues. The worse condition a tree is in, the more dangerous and expensive it is to remove.
- Capacity Building - The Parks and Recreation Department has historically been under-resourced in forestry, and we have no internal professional forestry experience. The city's urban forest has been overlooked for many years. This grant will allow us to gain a baseline understanding of the quantity and condition of trees in the city. Additionally, the grant will support staff training to better manage our urban forest in the future.
- Community Tree Benefits - According to the Wisconsin DNR, "An abundant, healthy urban tree canopy increases property values, reduces storm water runoff and erosion, improves air quality and reduces energy used for heating and cooling." Trees also provide many psychological and general quality of life benefits. Anecdotally, our urban forest is neither abundant nor healthy. This grant will provide a quantitative assessment of our urban forest so we can make sound decisions.

4. What short and long-term costs will the city incur?

- Short-term – The City is required to provide a cost share of \$25,000. We will cover any in-kind costs to contribute information to the planning process, staff time related to training, and any supplies or equipment for tree removal and planting from the existing parks and recreation budget. The grant can cover staff time for tree removal and planting, but this may require contractors. The amount typically budgeted by the City for tree planting and tree removal should be sufficient to cover the local cost share (matching) requirement.
- Long-term – Without appropriate action, the condition of ash trees within the city will continue to deteriorate, increasing cost, liability, and safety issues. We do not know how much it will cost to manage our ash trees, but we do know that costs will only go up. Other communities of similar size estimate that it will cost between \$200,000 - \$400,000 to remove all ash trees over a 2-to-5-year time.

5. How are other communities dealing with Emerald Ash Borer (EAB)?

- Two Rivers is likely significantly behind other communities. Kewaunee and Manitowoc both have a current tree inventory that are publicly available at <https://pg-cloud.com/Wisconsin/>.
- A best practice in urban forestry is to maintain a current management plan. The DNR provides examples at <https://dnr.wisconsin.gov/topic/UrbanForests/eabtoolbox/localResponsibility>.