

RESOLUTION NO. 2026-R-48

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING AN APPLICATION FOR A WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES 2027 URBAN FORESTRY GRANT FOR A CITYWIDE GIS PUBLIC TREE INVENTORY

WHEREAS, in 2025, the City of Whitewater retained McMahon Associates, Inc. to complete an operational assessment of the Public Works and Parks Department, which recommended updating the City's public tree inventory and developing a systematic terrace tree pruning and replacement schedule; and,

WHEREAS, the City of Whitewater currently does not have a comprehensive and current inventory of its public tree population; and,

WHEREAS, the City proposes to complete a comprehensive citywide GIS-based public tree inventory of public trees located within City-managed street rights-of-way, maintained areas of public parks, open spaces, and other municipal properties; and,

WHEREAS, the proposed inventory would document existing trees, stumps, and available planting locations and provide information regarding tree location, species, size, condition, and management needs; and,

WHEREAS, completion of the inventory would provide the City with an accurate baseline for managing its urban forest and assist staff in identifying maintenance and removal priorities, evaluating species and age diversity, identifying future planting opportunities, developing systematic pruning cycles, planning for tree replacement, and forecasting long-term forestry maintenance and replacement costs; and,

WHEREAS, information collected through the inventory would be incorporated into the City's existing Geographic Information System (GIS), providing a foundation for future GIS-based forestry asset management and work-order capabilities and allowing the inventory to be maintained and updated as trees are planted, removed, inspected, or serviced; and,

WHEREAS, the estimated cost to complete the citywide GIS public tree inventory is \$48,700; and,

WHEREAS, the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources 2027 Urban Forestry Grant provides funding on a 50 percent matching basis, under which the City may receive up to \$24,350 in grant funding toward the project with a required City match of \$24,350; and,

WHEREAS, on June 23, 2026, the Finance Committee approved the use of the remaining balance from the Digital Community Sign Capital Improvement Project for the City's share of the tree inventory project and supported staff applying for a Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources Urban Forestry Grant to offset project costs; and,

WHEREAS, on August 19, 2026, the Park and Recreation Advisory Board recommended that staff bring the proposed grant application to the Common Council for approval; and,

WHEREAS, the City's required match of up to \$24,350 would be funded from the remaining balance of the Digital Community Sign Capital Improvement Project, which has a remaining balance of \$33,547; and,

WHEREAS, the Common Council finds that completion of a comprehensive citywide GIS public tree inventory will support the City's long-term management, maintenance, planning, and stewardship of its public urban forest;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, That the Common Council of the City of Whitewater hereby approves and authorizes the submission of an application for a Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources 2027 Urban Forestry Grant for the citywide GIS public tree inventory project.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Common Council authorizes a City match of up to \$24,350 if the grant is awarded, with the City's required match to be funded from the remaining balance of the Digital Community Sign Capital Improvement Project.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the appropriate City officials are authorized to execute and submit the grant application and provide such documentation, certifications, and information as may be reasonably necessary to complete the application and administer the grant if awarded.

Resolution was introduced by Council Member _____, who moved for its adoption.

Seconded by Council Member _____.

DATE: October 6, 2026

	YES	NO	PASS	ABSENT
Michael Smith				
Orin Artsmith				
Steven Sahyun				
Brian Schanen				
Neil Hicks				
Gavin Kellener				
Patrick Singer				
Total:				

ADOPTED:

John Weidl, City Manager

ATTEST:

Heather Boehm, City Clerk