



June Board Cycle

Milwaukee County Parks

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Wauwatosa, WI 53226

(414) 257-PARK

Date: May 20, 2020
To: Marcelia Nicholson, Chairwoman, County Board of Supervisors
From: Guy Smith, Executive Director, Milwaukee County Parks
Subject: **Community Tree Program Donations (ACTION)**

Issue

Milwaukee County Parks has removed over 6,000 dead/infected ash trees due to Emerald Ash Borer. The public (individuals, businesses and organizations, Friends Groups) would like to assist in efforts to replant trees by providing donation support.

Further, Milwaukee County Ordinance Chapter 13.03 states that the Milwaukee County Board and Executive must approve the acceptance of all gifts to County Departments.

Background

Over the past decade, thousands of trees in Milwaukee County Parks have been infected or killed by Emerald Ash Borer, an invasive beetle which can kill ash trees within 2-4 years of infection. Dead and infected trees are a safety concern, and Parks Forestry staff are committed to tree removal as a safety priority. However, with a focus on tree removal, there is a growing interest from the community to assist with tree replanting efforts.

In response, Parks has created a new program, the Community Tree Program, whereby the public – individuals, businesses, local nonprofits, or Friends Groups – can make financial donations to support tree replanting efforts. These donations allow Parks staff to leverage community support and ensure our parks and county residents benefit from tree replanting efforts. Donations to the Community Tree Program allow Parks to partner with local tree nurseries, secure higher quality trees, and ensure professional tree planting.

According to the current County Ordinances (Chapter 13.03), Milwaukee County Parks would need to have each donation approved separately. We propose an annual approval of the program, and Parks will provide an annual informational report updating the Board of Supervisors on the program's metrics.



The Community Tree Program will also include outreach, education, and engagement opportunities to further build relationships with the community.

Recommendation

Parks' Executive Director recommends approval of Milwaukee County Parks' Community Tree Program authorizing Parks to accept ongoing donations in support of tree replanting efforts.

Prepared By: Lindsay Frost, Engagement Manager, Milwaukee County Parks

Approved By: Guy Smith, Executive Director, Milwaukee County Parks



Attachments

- Attachment 1: Community Tree Program 1-Pager
- Attachment 2: Fiscal Note
- Attachment 3: Resolution

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- David Crowley, County Executive
- Mary Jo Meyers, Chief of Staff, County Executive's Office
- Sheldon Wasserman, Parks, Energy & Environment Chair, Supervisor District 3
- Steven Shea, Parks, Energy & Environment Committee Vice-Chair, Supervisor District 8
- Felesia Martin, Parks, Energy & Environment Committee Member, Supervisor District 7
- Sylvia Ortiz-Velez, Parks, Energy & Environment Committee Member, Supervisor District 12
- Liz Sumner, Parks, Energy & Environment Committee Member, Supervisor District 1
- Kelly Bablitch, Chief of Staff, County Board
- Julie Landry, Director, Department of Administrative Services
- Joseph Lamers, Fiscal & Budget Director, DAS
- Vince Masterson, Fiscal & Strategic Asset Coordinator, DAS
- Pamela Bryant, Capital Finance Manager, Comptroller's Office
- Justin Rodriguez, Capital Finance Analyst, Comptroller's Office
- Kelsey Evans, Committee Coordinator, Office of the County Clerk
- Emily Peterson, Research & Policy Analyst, Office of the Comptroller
- Lindsey Peterson, Budget & Management Analyst, DAS-PSB

