



# DNR Urban and Community Forestry Grant

August 9, 2024 | Peter Bratt, MKE County Parks





# Action Item

From the Executive Director of Milwaukee County Parks requesting authorization to apply for and accept State of Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources Urban and Community Forestry Grant

# Background

- The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR) administers the Urban Forestry Grant program .
- DNR's Urban Forestry Grant program is designed to support projects and programs that improve a community's capacity to manage its trees.
- Parks Department seeks Urban Forestry Grant support to assist with tree purchasing in efforts to mitigate the impact of trees removed due to the Emerald Ash Borer.

# Background

- The program will expand the capacity of Parks' forestry operations by:
  - Improving the ability for Parks to replace trees removed due to the Emerald Ash Borer;
  - Increasing tree diversity and implementing the department's forestry management plan;
  - Promoting Parks' financial sustainability by securing alternative funding sources for tree purchases;
  - Support reforestation efforts by friends groups throughout Milwaukee County.

# Background

- The estimated cost of the project is \$50,000
  - The DNR share of project costs is no more than \$25,000
  - Milwaukee County Parks provides \$25,000, which will be provided through in-kind staff labor
- Projects would start after January 1, 2025 and must be completed by December 31, 2025

# Background

- Projects would include:
  - Forestry Team members will facilitate urban forestry education events and collaborate with various friends group to plan for new trees to be planted at various parks
  - Plant new trees and reforest one acre of turf grass into high quality woodland.

# Parks Strategic Plan Alignment



- Equitably balance the Parks system to be more sustainable
  - Increase tree plantings and reduce actively managed lands
- Actively engage community and cultivate creative partnerships
  - Partnership with Friends groups and WI DNR

# Next Steps

- Parks and Culture Committee consideration of Action Item





Questions?



# DNR Urban and Community Forestry Grant

August 9, 2024 | Peter Bratt, MKE County Parks

