



# DNR Urban and Community Forestry Grant

June 4, 2025

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

- Parks is a strong applicant, having received grants through this program in 2019 and in 2025



# 2025 Grant Update



- 130 trees to be planted in Fall of 2025
- Partnering with community groups
  - Friends of Lincoln Park
  - Friends of Lafollette Park
  - Friends of Mitchell/Clarke
  - Friends of McCarty Park
  - Friends of Lyons Park
  - Sherman Park Community Association
  - Nearby Nature
  - MKE Water Commons
  - Eastbrook Church
  - Riverworks



# 2025 Grant Update





# 2025 Grant Update





# 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, 2026 and must be completed by December 31, 2026

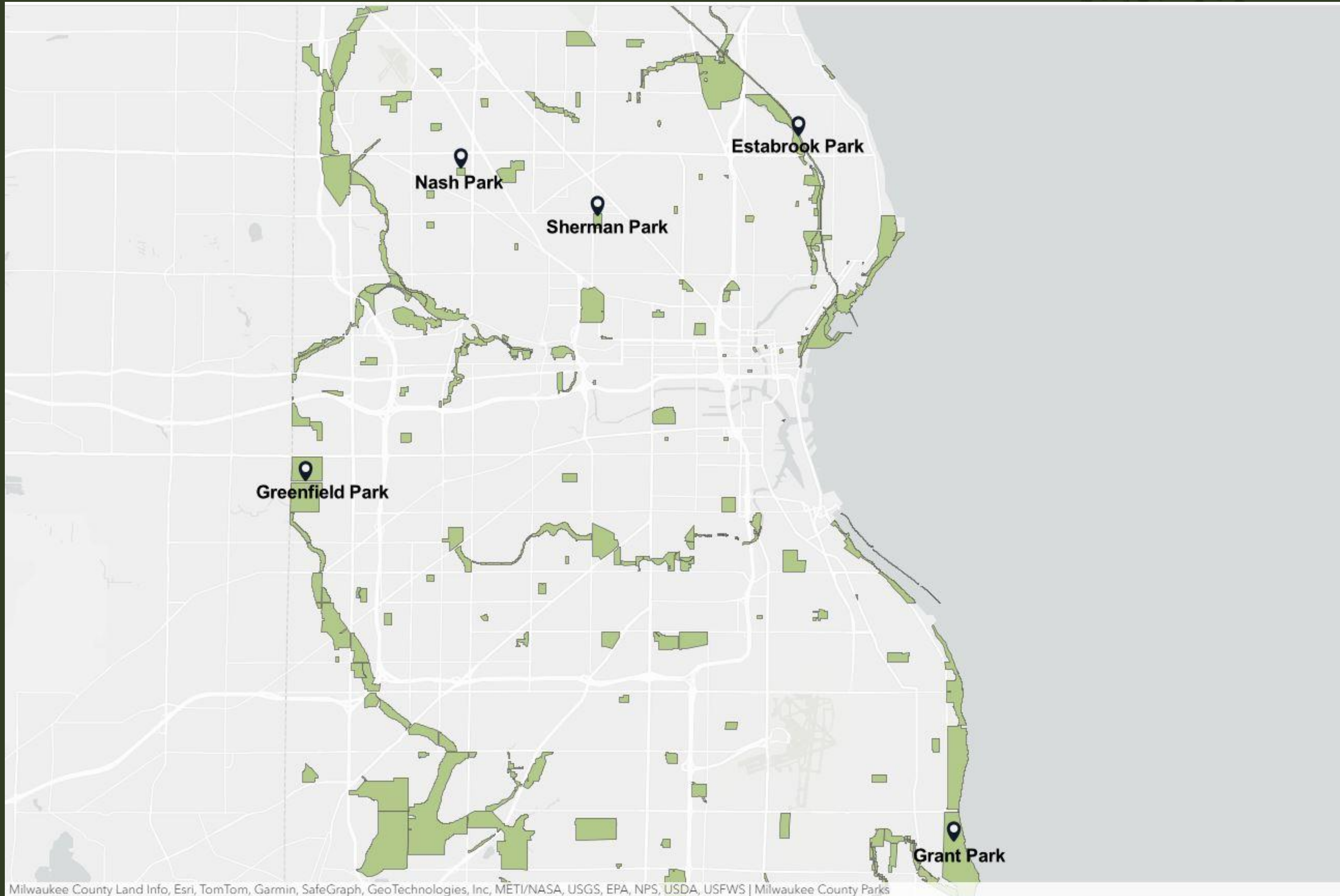


# Background

- Roots in the Community Program
  - Forestry and Natural Areas Team would work with six Friends and community groups to plan over 270 trees in the Milwaukee County Park system.
  - Reforesting of 3.5 acres of land
    - Greenfield Park
    - Estabrook Park
    - Grant Park
  - Tree plantings
    - Sherman Park
    - Nash Park



# Background





# 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?





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