Final Abstract

Final Report Approved on November 20, 2026

M.L. 2020 Project Abstract

For the Period Ending June 30, 2026

Project Title: Protect Community Forests By Managing Ash For EAB

Project Manager: Valerie McClannahan

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Funding Source:

Fiscal Year:

Legal Citation: M.L. 2021, First Special Session, Chp. 6, Art. 5, Sec. 2, Subd. 06b , as extended by laws 2025, First Special Session, Art. 2, Sec. 2, Subd. 17.

Appropriation Amount: $3,500,000

Amount Spent: $3,342,280

Amount Remaining: $157,720

Sound bite of Project Outcomes and Results

Grants to 35 Minnesota communities protected 8489 ash trees from emerald ash borer, removed 2084 hazardous trees, and planted 5510 diverse replacements, sustaining cleaner air, reduced stormwater runoff, and more resilient community forests. A new public mapping tool gives 854 communities tree canopy change data to guide future forest management.

Summary of Project and Outcomes

Emerald ash borer (EAB) is an invasive insect that kills every ash tree it infests. Ash is one of the most common trees on Minnesota streets and in parks, so losing it means losing shade, cleaner air, and natural stormwater mitigation, and leaves local governments with the burden of costly removals. Many communities lacked funding, staff, or information to plan ahead.

This project worked in two ways. First, grants to 35 cities and counties funded tree inventories, management plans, protective treatment of healthy, high-value ash with a non-neonicotinoid insecticide, removal of dead or dying ash, and

replanting with diverse species. As a result, 16 tree inventories and 15 management plans were completed, 8489 ash trees were protected, 2084 dead or dying ash trees were removed, and 5510 new trees were planted. These newly planted trees are estimated to provide $147,668 in annual benefits through carbon storage, stormwater reduction, energy savings, and increased property values, with those benefits expected to grow as the trees mature. The protected ash are estimated to provide $17 million in total benefits, including $12.5 million in avoided removal and replacement costs. Project partners educated 58 communities and more than 800 residents on EAB and tree care. Second, the DNR surveyed trees in 303 communities and mapped tree canopy gain and loss between 2013 and 2023 in 854 communities statewide. The results are available in a free online tool that also shows estimated tree benefits for the 303 surveyed communities.

Together, these efforts help communities shift from reacting to tree loss to planning for and mitigating it. Planting a mix of species makes community forests less vulnerable to future pests, and the canopy tool gives local leaders a baseline to track change, target planting where it is needed most, and respond to future threats.

Project Results Use and Dissemination

The online canopy tool and demo are live on the DNR website. Six training sessions (one virtual, five in person), reached 83 attendees. The tool was presented at the MnSTAC Holiday Forum (December 2025) and the SAF-AFS-TWS Minnesota Joint Chapter Meeting (February 2026), and promoted through GreenStep Cities, the MnSTAC Newsletter, Tree Care Advisors, Minnesota Tree Inspectors, and the Shade Tree Short Course. A DNR news release drew coverage from the Star Tribune, KIMT, Fox 21, and local newspapers. Attachments include the benefits calculator, partner totals, training materials, and media coverage.

Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund

M.L. 2020 Approved Final Report

General Information

Date: November 23, 2026

ID Number: 2020-054

Staff Lead: Mike Campana

Project Title: Protect Community Forests By Managing Ash For EAB

Project Budget: $3,500,000

Project Manager Information

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Project Reporting

Final Report Approved: November 20, 2026

Reporting Status: Project Completed

Date of Last Action: November 20, 2026

Project Completion: June 30, 2026

Legal Information

Legal Citation: M.L. 2021, First Special Session, Chp. 6, Art. 5, Sec. 2, Subd. 06b , as extended by laws 2025, First Special Session, Art. 2, Sec. 2, Subd. 17.

Appropriation Language: $3,500,000 the second year is from the trust fund to the commissioner of natural resources to reduce emerald ash borer by providing surveys, assessments, trainings, assistance, and grants for communities to manage emerald ash borer, plant a diversity of trees, and engage citizens in community forestry activities. This appropriation is available until June 30, 2025, by which time the project must be completed and final products delivered.Carryforward; extensions (a) The availability of the appropriations for the following projects is extended to

June 30, 2026: (3) Laws 2021, First Special Session chapter 6, article 5, section 2, subdivision 6, paragraph (b), Protect Community Forests by Managing Ash for Emerald Ash Borer

Appropriation End Date: June 30, 2026

Narrative

Project Summary: Project will reduce EAB through community developed management (inventory, canopy assessment, management plan, removal, non-neonicotinoid treatment) and improve their community forest by involving citizens and planting a diversity of trees.

Describe the opportunity or problem your proposal seeks to address. Include any relevant background information.

Emerald ash borer (EAB) is spreading at a faster rate within Minnesota each year and it is imperative for communities to know where their canopy cover is located and how it is changing over time. The number of counties with known infestations rose dramatically within the last few years. Delaying the spread of EAB into new areas of the state will benefit the economy, environment, and human health. The citizens of Minnesota deserve the support and education they need to manage and protect their community forests from EAB.

What is your proposed solution to the problem or opportunity discussed above? Introduce us to the work you are seeking funding to do. You will be asked to expand on this proposed solution in Activities & Milestones.

This project will put vital tools in community's hands so they can best define the way they need to manage EAB and enable them to assist their citizens. Funded activities will include: conducting a tree inventory, removing ash, treating valuable ash with the non-neonicotinoid injectable insecticide emamectin benzoate, and planting trees for diverse forests. Communities will work with partners to assess infestations, and provide citizen education and engagement to manage and improve community forest canopy.

What are the specific project outcomes as they relate to the public purpose of protection, conservation, preservation, and enhancement of the state's natural resources?

ENTRF funds will:

- Provide technical assistance to communities and promote monitoring-based management strategies;
- Provide canopy assessments, statistically sampled tree surveys, and an analysis of community tree benefits for 260-300 communities statewide;
- Administer up to $2.4 million in grants to support the management of EAB through community forestry activities on public and private land and in urban and rural communities;
- Offer education and outreach to engage citizens in ash management and community forestry activities;
- Quantitatively evaluate the impact of management work on the growth and spread of EAB populations.

Project Location

What is the best scale for describing where your work will take place?

Statewide

What is the best scale to describe the area impacted by your work?

Statewide

When will the work impact occur?

During the Project and In the Future

Activities and Milestones

Activity 1: Develop request for proposals, administer grants, and implement grant projects to support the management of EAB in community forests.

Activity Budget: $3,121,060

Activity Description:
Communities and citizens need assistance to reduce the impacts of EAB and slow its spread. A request for proposals (RFP) will be issued for a grant program to provide an estimated 50 communities $2,400,000 in funds, and technical assistance to communities to manage EAB through community forestry activities on public lands. Grant amounts are expected to be $15,000 to $150,000 per grant. Eligible applicants are cities, townships, counties, and Tribal Communities. Participating communities will be selected based on demonstrated need for financial and technical assistance, local forestry needs, vulnerable populations (e.g., elderly, low income, etc.), readiness to take on a project of their proposed scope and size, and commitment to sustainable community forestry programming. Project partners include the Minnesota Department of Agriculture (MDA), the University of Minnesota (UMN), Tree Trust (TT), and Conservation Corps of Minnesota and Iowa (Corps). These partners will work closely with applicants to develop work plans that identify program activities, goals, and projected outcomes while additionally providing technical assistance in implementation.

Activity Milestones:

Description	Approximate Completion Date
RFP development, open application period, and review and select proposals	January 31, 2022
Develop work plans and grant agreements	May 31, 2022
UMN & MDA will conduct tree condition assessments as a baseline measure of EAB impacts and to track distribution, density, and population size	August 31, 2024
Grant activities are ongoing, annual work plans received and reviewed	June 30, 2025
MDA will host EAB monitoring and management workshops	June 30, 2025

Activity 2: Community canopy assessment: mapping and tracking change, diversity, economic, & environmental impacts

Activity Budget: $378,940

Activity Description:
Working in partnership with the UMN, this project will provide canopy assessments, statistically sampled tree surveys, and an analysis of community tree benefits for 260-300 communities statewide. Building off the methods developed in the ENTRF FY14 funded project, Update Statewide Land Cover Use Map, the UMN will produce high resolution maps showing the extent, structure, and types of community forests for the years of 2010 and 2020. These maps will provide vital tree canopy information to communities throughout the state who don't otherwise have these resources. MNDNR Resource Assessment will perform statistically sampled tree surveys to aid in the production of the maps produced by the UMN, providing basic information communities need to make ash management decisions. Canopy data will be analyzed through the U.S. Forest Service iTree software to quantify the environmental and economic benefits of the community's forest, such as gallons of stormwater mitigated and energy savings. A user-friendly web mapping tool will be developed and several webinars and in-person workshops throughout the state will be offered to deliver and discuss results, data interpretation, and assist communities in developing tailored management plans and/or ordinances to protect and increase canopy.

Activity Milestones:

Description	Approximate Completion Date
Maps will be developed and assessed to look at changes in forest canopy	May 31, 2023
Statistically sampled tree surveys in approximately 260-300 communities	November 30, 2023
Development of web mapping and data dissemination tool	June 30, 2025
Quantify value of environmental and economic benefits of community forests statewide and grant projects	November 30, 2025
Outreach and workshops about the web tool, environmental benefits, and vulnerability to invasive species	March 31, 2026

Project Partners and Collaborators

Name	Organization	Role	Receiving Funds
Mark Abrahamson	Minnesota Department of Agriculture	Provide technical assistance to communities to identity management needs, provide monitoring and management workshops. Assess tree condition and infestations, and host EAB monitoring and management.	Yes
Eric North	University of Minnesota - Department of Forest Resources	Community forestry outreach, and citizen engagement and training for activities such as emerald ash borer detection, and tree planting.	Yes
Brian Aukema	University of Minnesota - Department of Entomology	Emerald ash borer data collection and analysis of rates of infestation.	Yes
Joe Knight	University of Minnesota - Remote Sensing Lab	Mapping and canopy analysis.	Yes
Jennifer Corcoran	Minnesota Department of Natural Resources - Resource Assessment	Conduct field work for statistically sampled tree surveys and create user friendly format for public data accessibility.	Yes
Karen Zumach	Tree Trust	Event planning, coordination, and citizen engagement in community tree planting.	Yes
Nick Cox	Conservation Corps of Minnesota & Iowa	Operationalizing community work plan activities and on-the-ground community assistance for tree planting and maintenance.	Yes

Dissemination

Describe your plans for dissemination, presentation, documentation, or sharing of data, results, samples, physical collections, and other products and how they will follow ENRTF Acknowledgement Requirements and Guidelines.
Slowing the spread of EAB and educating communities using the latest technology and most current information about their community forests will provide tremendous long-term economic and environmental benefits to the state and its citizens. The methods used in this project are repeatable and the web mapping tool is intended to remain a resource available to communities in perpetuity to help address EAB now and future invasive exotic pests. Acknowledgement of the ENRTF will be included in all project communications and outreach per ENRTF guidelines.

Long-Term Implementation and Funding

Describe how the results will be implemented and how any ongoing effort will be funded. If not already addressed as part of the project, how will findings, results, and products developed be implemented after project completion? If additional work is needed, how will this work be funded?
It is estimated there are 2.65 million ash trees in populated areas of the state, making EAB potentially one of the most destructive forest pests ever to reach Minnesota. Slowing the spread of EAB and educating communities using the latest technology and most current information about their community forests will provide tremendous long-term economic and environmental benefits to the state and its citizens. The methods used in this project are repeatable and the web

mapping tool is intended to remain a resource available to communities in perpetuity to help address EAB now and future invasive exotic pests.

Budget Summary

Category / Name	Subcategory or Type	Description	Purpose	Gen. Ineligible	% Benefits	# FTE	Classified Staff?	$ Amount	$ Amount Spent	$ Amount Remaining
Personnel										
Urban and Community Forest Project Specialist		Grant administration, contract management, education, and outreach campaign			33%	1.98		$197,758	-	-
Cooperative Forest Management Foresters		Foresters statewide will complete grant compliance checks.			33%	0.75	X	$55,957	-	-
							Sub Total	**$253,715**	**$243,692**	**$10,023**
Contracts and Services										
Grants to Cities, Townships, Counties, and Tribal Communities	Subaward	Grants to Cities, Townships, Counties, and Tribal Communities (Request for Proposals, $2.4 million) for management of ash for EAB. Estimate providing grants to 50 communities throughout the state of Minnesota.				0		$2,400,000	$2,392,581	$7,419
Resource Assessment - Department of Natural Resources	Subaward	Mapping and canopy analysis. Conduct field work for statistically sampled tree surveys and create user friendly format for public data accessibility.				0		$299,223	$299,223	-
Remote Sensing Lab - University of Minnesota, Department of Forest Resources	Subaward	Mapping and canopy analysis.				0		$88,527	-	$88,527
Urban Forestry Lab - University	Subaward	Community forestry outreach, and citizen engagement and training for				0		$105,000	$105,000	-

of Minnesota, Department of Forest Resources		activities such as emerald ash borer detection, and tree planting.								
University of Minnesota, Department of Entomology	Subaward	Emerald ash borer data collection and analysis of rates of infestation.				0		$120,000	$120,000	-
Tree Trust	Subaward	Community engagement tree planting education and volunteer events.				0		$48,750	$48,750	-
Conservation Corps of Minnesota & Iowa	Subaward	Operationalizing community work plan activities and on the ground community assistance for tree planting and maintenance.				0		$33,750	$7,428	$26,322
Minnesota Department of Agriculture	Subaward	MDA will utilize classified Scientists. These staff will be responsible for assessing tree condition and infestations, and will host EAB monitoring and management workshops throughout the state.		X		0		$123,750	$123,750	-
							Sub Total	**$3,219,000**	**$3,096,732**	**$122,268**
Equipment, Tools, and Supplies										
							Sub Total	**-**	**-**	**-**
Capital Equipment										
							Sub Total	**-**	**-**	**-**
Acquisitions and Stewardship										
							Sub Total	**-**	**-**	**-**
Travel In Minnesota										

	Miles/ Meals/ Lodging	Vehicle and lodging for 25 work days.	DNR Travel for education and outreach.					$3,000	$1,856	$1,144
							Sub Total	**$3,000**	**$1,856**	**$1,144**
Travel Outside Minnesota										
							Sub Total	**-**	**-**	**-**
Printing and Publication										
	Printing	Emerald ash borer education and outreach	Printing costs for emerald ash borer education and outreach.					$3,750	-	$3,750
							Sub Total	**$3,750**	**-**	**$3,750**
Other Expenses										
		Direct and Necessary	Direct and Necessary expenses: HR Support (~$4,184), Safety Support (~$757), Financial Support (~$3,116), Communication Support (~$1,388), IT Support (~$9,952), and Planning Support (~$1,138) necessary to accomplish funded programs/projects.					$20,535	-	$20,535
							Sub Total	**$20,535**	**-**	**$20,535**
							Grand Total	**$3,500,000**	**$3,342,280**	**$157,720**

Classified Staff or Generally Ineligible Expenses

Category/Name	Subcategory or Type	Description	Justification Ineligible Expense or Classified Staff Request
Personnel - Cooperative Forest Management Foresters		Foresters statewide will complete grant compliance checks.	**Classified :** The .25 FTE will be utilized to conduct compliance checks across the entire State of Minnesota and we have chosen to utilize our professional forester staff to complete this work. These are classified staff. Due to the extensive geographical area needed to be covered by this work, we felt utilizing several current staff rather than hiring unclassified staff would create efficiencies that reduce overall costs to the project. We estimate needing 1 FTE annually for this work if we were to utilize an unclassified staff person.
Contracts and Services - Minnesota Department of Agriculture	Subaward	MDA will utilize classified Scientists. These staff will be responsible for assessing tree condition and infestations, and will host EAB monitoring and management workshops throughout the state.	MDA has staff that have the expertise to complete the workplan tasks in the allotted time at a high level of competency. Currently, the two research scientists who will be assigned this work are predominantly funded by outside grant money that is not part of the state general fund and is set to expire. These funds are project based and have to be continually applied for in order to support these staff. We feel utilizing current staff rather than hiring unclassified staff would create efficiencies that reduce overall costs to the project.

Non ENRTF Funds

Category	Specific Source	Use	Status	$ Amount	$ Amount Spent	$ Amount Remaining
State						
			State Sub Total	-	-	-
Non-State						
			Non State Sub Total	-	-	-
			Funds Total	-	-	-

Attachments

Required Attachments

Visual Component

File: d2c1d45e-24e.pdf

Alternate Text for Visual Component

Graphics for EAB, tree planting, and healthy tree. Example of tree survey data. Canopy assessment maps and change rates....

Supplemental Attachments

Capital Project Questionnaire, Budget Supplements, Support Letter, Photos, Media, Other

Title	File
ENRTF Background Check Certification Form	c2382085-d1d.pdf
Activity 2 - Selected Cities	05345d57-3ff.pdf
Protect Community Forests - RFA	63a1445c-583.pdf
Digital Ad Placement Visuals	3a9087d3-8ae.pdf
Grant Awarded Community Grantees	20a6448b-5e1.xlsx
Minnesota Community Tree Inventory Flyer	e2ad5d5a-164.docx
2020-054 Community Updated Totals 2023 04.14	dcb1fcc4-0eb.xlsx
Rapid Tree Survey City Status_2022 4.1	68b37cb1-297.xlsx
LCCMR Protect Community Forests Project Mentions 9.29	e1c9804d-685.pdf
2020-054 Community Updated Totals 2023 9.28	eb049afd-6ff.xlsx
Rapid Tree Survey City Status_2023 9.28	363294ed-e41.xlsx
2020-054 Community Updated Totals 2024 3.26	e7bdf716-e2d.xlsx
LCCMR Protect Community Forests Project Mentions 4.1	a751eec6-7b4.pdf
Rapid Tree Survey City Status_2024 3.26	f601ec3e-c16.xlsx
Robbinsdale Treated Tree	e01cf33d-b92.jpe
South St. Paul Planting	bc3abc9f-772.jpe
South St. Paul Tree Planting Volunteers	45243a85-cad.jpe
South St. Paul New Tree	40cc348a-539.jpe
South St. Paul New Tree IMG_2	2c725983-a5c.jpe
MDA EAB City Survey Status 3.31.24	1a0a75e7-cd4.pdf
UMN Remote Sensing Updates 1.24	795356f4-08e.pdf
2020-054 Community Updated Totals 2024 9.23	78faed94-7cd.xlsx
Rapid Tree Survey City Status_2024 9.30	397a2af6-ed0.xlsx
MDA EAB City Survey Status 6.30.24	2d8f7248-4ae.pdf
2020-054 Community Updated Totals 2025 04.01	6ee65070-9fc.xlsx
Rapid Assessment Community Tree Survey Sample 03.28	834a643a-252.pdf
Trees Planted throughout West Concord - West Concord Messenger	8aff1402-a3e.pdf
Tree Trust Report 2024	862fe19f-ca7.pdf
Rapid Tree Survey City Status_2025 5.13	a2f53271-4e8.xlsx
2020-054 Community Updated Totals 2025 08.05	7c34cd92-5be.xlsx
Rapid Assessment Map Welcome 08.25	730b045b-44a.pdf
Otsego Tree Report	a1a95dda-579.pdf
Rapid-Tree-Assessment-2020-Report-Minneota	948332ce-85b.docx
2020-054 Community Updated Totals 2025 10.01	2fad2aa1-e7e.xlsx
Rapid Assessment Community Tree Report Viewer.pptx	706ef395-765.pptx
Final report - Aukema and Michaud UMN Oct 2025.docx	1e24b102-44e.docx
Rapid Tree Survey City Status_2025 12.22	53cd5259-17b.xlsx
Rapid_Assessment_Community_Trees_MNSAF	7447b62d-752.pptx
26-Joint-Meet-abstract-book-FINAL	b617dff4-8b8.pdf

2026-MNAFS-program-FINAL	542a378a-b92.pdf
Community Tree Canopy Training Flyer	5f7f62ce-319.pdf
Rapid Assessment Community Tree Report Viewer	9cf3072f-3db.pptx
Rapid Tree Survey City Status_2026 05.06	1842caa2-102.xlsx
UCF Benefits Calculator	d26c78d0-faa.xlsx
LCCMR Protect Community Forests by Managing Ash for EAB Grantee & Partner Final Totals	25b104ad-c05.xlsx
4.7 KIMT - DNR unveils tool to help Minnesota cities plan tree planting strategies	9ff296eb-4a6.pdf
4.9 Headlight Herald - DNR launches first-of-its-kind online tree canopy mapping tool.	c5787d1d-a02.pdf
4.13 Walker Pilot - DNR launches first-of-its-kind online tree canopy mapping tool	72b03806-1d4.pdf
4.16 ML Gazette - DNR Launches online mapping tool	ea1a5b9b-3a1.pdf
4.29 Star Tribune - Minnesota ramps up statewide push to expand tree shade in urban heat islands	39c1b073-6e8.pdf
UCF Benefits Calculator.Updated	df007468-ae4.xlsx

Media Links

Title	Link
Protect Community Forests by Managing Ash for EAB Grants Program	https://www.dnr.state.mn.us/grants/forestmgmt/protect-community-forests.html
Minnesota Community Forestry Awards, and MNDNR Rapid Assessment Community Tree Report Viewer	https://youtu.be/6W43DCEnUFs?si=bkBQ1lGTDiIMv0aL
Rapid Assessment Community Tree Report Viewer App	https://gis.dnr.state.mn.us/arcgis/apps/experiencebuilder/experience/?id=84be7fddd5c74d35a45b71caa3bf1c2b
Star Tribune: Minnesota ramps up statewide push to expand tree shade in urban heat islands	https://www.startribune.com/minnesota-ramps-up-statewide-push-to-expand-tree-shade-in-urban-heat-islands/601637786
News release: DNR launches first-of-its-	https://www.dnr.state.mn.us/news/2026/04/06/dnr-launches-first-its-kind-online-tree-canopy-mapping-tool

kind online tree canopy mapping tool	
Fox 21 - Minnesota DNR launches Community Tree Canopy Viewer	https://www.fox21online.com/news/local/minnesota-dnr-launches-community-tree-canopy-viewer/article_61e86b43-e8ad-4716-b917-e50315778e5c.html
Community Tree Canopy Page - MN DNR	https://www.dnr.state.mn.us/forestry/urban/community-tree-canopy.html
Community Tree Report Viewer Training	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qDKDj5EJZog

Difference between Proposal and Work Plan

Describe changes from Proposal to Work Plan Stage

Updates provided to reflect needed changes to budget due to reduced amount and change in timeline due to updated expiration date.

Additional Acknowledgements and Conditions:

The following are acknowledgements and conditions beyond those already included in the above workplan:

Do you understand and acknowledge the ENRTF repayment requirements if the use of capital equipment changes?

N/A

Do you understand that travel expenses are only approved if they follow the "Commissioner's Plan" promulgated by the Commissioner of Management of Budget or, for University of Minnesota projects, the University of Minnesota plan?

Yes, I understand the Commissioner's Plan applies.

Does your project have potential for royalties, copyrights, patents, sale of products and assets, or revenue generation?

No

Do you understand and acknowledge IP and revenue-return and sharing requirements in 116P.10?

N/A

Do you wish to request reinvestment of any revenues into your project instead of returning revenue to the ENRTF?

N/A

Does your project include original, hypothesis-driven research?

No

Does the organization have a fiscal agent for this project?

No

Work Plan Amendments

Amendment ID	Request Type	Changes made on the following pages	Justification For Amendment Request (word limit 75)	Date Submitted	Approved	Date of LCCMR Action
1	Amendment Request	• Narrative • Other • Budget - Professional / Technical Contracts	One of the outcomes is a web-map available for public use showing changes in state-wide canopy cover; contracted through the University of Minnesota – Remote Sensing Lab to be completed by June 30, 2024. However, no usable data was delivered despite updates earlier in the project indicating that it would be complete on time. After repeated efforts to access data and receiving unusable products, we are moving forward with completing the mapping with DNR Resource Assessment.	December 26, 2024	Yes	December 27, 2024
2	Completion Date	Previous Completion Date: 06/30/2025 New Completion Date: 06/30/2026; Governor Approved on 06/14/2025	One of the outcomes of this project is a web-map available for public use showing changes in state-wide canopy cover; contracted through the University of Minnesota – Remote Sensing Lab to be completed by 6/30/24. However, no usable data was delivered despite updates earlier in the project indicating it would be received on time. After repeated efforts to access data and receiving unusable products, the DNR is moving forward with completing the project internally.	December 10, 2024	Yes	June 25, 2025
3	Amendment Request	• Activities and Milestones	DNR Resource Assessment has completed creating a canopy change map, and will take approximately two more months to complete benefit analyses. After all aspects of the mapping tool are complete, outreach events will be conducted by DNR Urban and Community Forestry staff, to be completed by 3/31/26.	August 15, 2025	Yes	August 22, 2025

Status Update Reporting

Final Status Update August 14, 2026

Date Submitted: August 14, 2026

Date Approved: October 29, 2026

Overall Update
Through this project, impacts of EAB were reduced statewide by funding 35 communities, to conduct inventories, develop management plans, treat high-value ash with a non-neonicotinoid insecticide, and remove and replace dead or dying ash trees. Cumulatively, this grant program supported 16 communities in completing tree inventories, 15 communities in creating management plans, 8,489 trees protected from EAB with a non-neonicotinoid insecticide, 2,084 dead or dying ash trees were removed, and 5,510 trees were planted statewide. The 5,510 trees planted are estimated to generate $147,668 in benefits each year, through CO2 sequestration, stormwater mitigation, energy savings and property value. The 8,489 trees protected through treatment are estimated to provide a cumulative benefit of $17,049,095. This total includes $12,495,808 in avoided removal and replacement costs (a one-time savings), along with ongoing annual benefits of CO2 sequestration, stormwater mitigation, energy savings and property value. A total of 58 communities received education in EAB and community tree care engaging over 800 residents.

Activity 1
A total of 35 communities received grant funding, with awards ranging from $9,456.00 to $149,600.00. Project partners supported communities with EAB detection and outreach, planting and volunteer event coordination, and tree care best practices (see Attachment 'LCCMR Protect Community Forests by Managing Ash for EAB Grantee & Partner Final Totals'). The two communities who received supplemental funding, Wyoming ($29,068.29) and Otsego ($18,334.33) have closed out their grant projects and removed and replaced a total of 39 additional trees, bringing the total trees removed to 2,084 and planted to 5,510. The University of Minnesota provided education to 23 communities and 332 community members, providing information on how to plant, maintain, and advocate for urban trees. Tree Trust provided operational planting support for three communities, assisting with 7 volunteer planting events, engaging a total of 89 volunteers and planting 267 trees. The Conservation Corps provided 242 hours of assistance with planting preparation and implementation in three communities. The public was educated about EAB in all 35 funded communities, as well as through statewide outreach conducted by the Minnesota Department of Agriculture, who surveyed 209 counties and held 48 educational events, engaging over 500attendees.
(This activity marked as complete as of this status update)

Activity 2
All project milestones have been completed. DNR Resource Assessment completed statistically sampled tree surveys for 303 communities statewide and developed high-resolution canopy maps comparing 2013 to 2023 conditions, showing canopy gained, lost, or maintained in 854 communities statewide. Benefits analysis was completed for all 303 communities, applying the same per-tree values for carbon sequestration, air quality, and property value used in the program's benefits calculator (see attachment 'UCF Benefits Calculator.Updated'). This fulfills the project's original goal of quantifying the environmental and economic benefits of community forests statewide. The user-friendly web mapping tool, along with a demo, is now live on the DNR website, delivering canopy change data for 854 communities statewide and community tree reports and benefit estimates for the 303 surveyed communities, giving them the vital canopy and economic data they need to inform local management decisions.
(This activity marked as complete as of this status update)

Dissemination
Following the initial virtual training, four in-person trainings were held statewide in St. Paul, Duluth, Rochester, Bemidji, and Moorhead. Across all five sessions 83 attended. The canopy mapping tool and companion demo are now publicly

available on the DNR website, providing canopy change data for 854 communities and tree surveys and benefit estimates for the 303 surveyed communities (see hyperlink MN DNR - Community Tree Canopy). Media coverage continued following the public launch (as shown in attachments 4.7 KIMT - DNR unveils tool to help Minnesota cities plan tree planting strategies, 4.9 Headlight Herald - DNR launches first-of-its-kind online tree canopy mapping tool, 4.13 Walker Pilot - DNR launches first-of-its-kind online tree canopy mapping tool, 4.16 ML Gazette - DNR Launches online mapping tool, 4.29 Star Tribune - Minnesota ramps up statewide push to expand tree shade in urban heat islands).

Status Update Reporting

Status Update April 1, 2026

Date Submitted: May 12, 2026

Date Approved: May 20, 2026

Overall Update
Grant recipients have completed their funded projects and all grant requirements and close out evaluations are complete. Unused funds from communities with closed grants have been reallocated to two communities whose original awards were reduced for tree removal and replacement. Canopy mapping data has been publicly released, and training sessions on the canopy mapping tool are currently underway statewide.

Activity 1
This activity was previously marked as complete. All 35 originally awarded community grantees have closed out their grant contracts and completed reimbursement requests. Two grantees whose original awards were reduced, the cities of Wyoming and Otsego, received a combined supplemental award of $47,402.62, reallocated from unused funds in now-closed community grants, directed towards tree removal and replacement. All partners involved in supporting funded activities have completed grant funded work.

Activity 2
DNR Resource Assessment has completed the tree survey sample for 303 communities across the state and has compiled results (see Attachment Rapid Tree Survey City Status_2026 05.06). DNR Resource Assessment has completed canopy change mapping using LiDAR and Aerial Imagery, comparing 2013 to 2023 data and showing where canopy has been gained, lost, or maintained in every community across the state. This tool is now publicly available as a web application, with training sessions held statewide. Five sessions were hosted with the first being held virtually and the remaining four trainings being held in St. Paul, Duluth, Rochester, Bemidji, and Moorhead. A total of 102 people registered for the trainings and 83 attended. To quantify the environmental and economic benefits of trees planted and protected through the grant program, a benefit estimation spreadsheet has been developed incorporating per-tree values for carbon sequestration, air quality improvement, stormwater reduction, energy savings, and property value. This tool covers both trees planted through the program and ash trees protected via an injectable insecticide treatment. We are currently compiling the rapid assessment data for the 303 surveyed this communities to broaden this quantification to community trees statewide (see Attachment 'UCF Benefits Calculator).

Dissemination
The canopy mapping tool has been presented at several professional forums, including the MnSTAC Holiday Forum on December 18, 2025 (see Video Attachment Minnesota Community Forestry Awards, and MNDNR Rapid Assessment Community Tree Report Viewer), and the 2026 SAF-AFS-TWS Minnesota Joint Chapter Meeting on February 25, 2026 (see Attachments Rapid_Assessment_Community_Trees_MNSAF, 26-Joint-Meet-abstract-book-FINAL(Pg. 60), and 2026 MNAFS program). Outreach around training events began in early March through multiple channels, including GreenStep Cities, the MnSTAC Newsletter, Tree City USA, Tree Care Advisors, and Minnesota Tree Inspectors. A flyer was shared at the 2026 Shade Tree Short Course in March (see Attachment Community Tree Canopy Training Flyer). Local DNR media officers have been notified of the trainings and are reaching out to local media to broaden public awareness. The first hands-on training was held virtually on March 27, 2026, and 60 urban forestry professionals and community members participated in the event, with four additional in-person trainings hosted throughout April (see Attachments Rapid Assessment Community Tree Report Viewer, News release: DNR launches first-of-its-kind online tree canopy mapping tool, Fox 21 - Minnesota DNR launches Community Tree Canopy Viewer).

Status Update Reporting

Status Update October 1, 2025

Date Submitted: December 22, 2025

Date Approved: January 9, 2026

Overall Update
Grant recipients have completed their funded projects and close-out evaluations have been completed for all grantees. Canopy mapping is complete and the publicly available map has been developed and is being reviewed for accessibility prior to rollout in the coming weeks.

Activity 1
As of October 1, 2025, all thirty-five communities have closed out their grant contracts. Of the 35 community grantees, 35 have requested reimbursement for work completed. As shown in attachment '2020-054 Community Updated Totals 2025 10.01', a total of sixteen communities have completed tree inventories, and fifteen completed the development of an EAB management plan. 2045 trees have been removed, 5471 trees have been planted, and 8489 ash have been protected with a non-neonicotinoid insecticide. DNR Resource Assessment has completed community rapid assessment data compilation and 2010 to 2023 canopy change mapping of the state. A mapping tool has been created and is in the final stages accessibility review before it will be released to the public.
(This activity marked as complete as of this status update)

Activity 2
DNR Resource Assessment has completed the tree survey sample for 303 communities across the state and compiled results for communities. DNR Resource Assessment has completed canopy change mapping using LIDAR and aerial imagery, comparing 2010 data to 2013 data and showing where canopy has been gained, lost, or maintained in over 300 communities in the state. The tool also allows users to download and view a Tree Report for their community, if they are one of the communities included in the Rapid Assessment surveys. This tool is now in a web application and reports are being reviewed by accessibility feedback prior to the public release. See attachment 'Rapid-Tree-Assessment-2020-Report-Minneota' for an example community tree report. On December 18, 2025, UCF staff presented to the MNSTAC (Minnesota Shade Tree Advisory Committee) about the Rapid Assessment Viewer tool. The presentation titled 'Rapid Assessment Community Report Viewer,pptx' can be found in attachments. UCF staff plan to host 4 additional outreach events related to the tool in early 2026. The final EAB report from the University of Minnesota - Entomology Lab titled 'Final report - Aukema and Michaud UMN Oct 2025.docx' can be found in attachments.

Dissemination
The 'About' pop up in the ArcGIS web map credits LCCMR funding for the project and includes the LCCMR logo, as shown in attachment 'WebMapWelcome08.25'. DNR staff plan to begin statewide outreach specific to the canopy mapping tool in the coming months.

Additional Status Update Reporting

Additional Status Update August 4, 2025

Date Submitted: August 15, 2025

Date Approved: August 22, 2025

Overall Update
Grant recipients have completed their funded projects and close-out evaluations are in progress, with many communities having already met all grant requirements. Grant partners supported communities in meeting their community forestry goals, and canopy mapping data is in the final stages of receiving feedback before being publicly released.

Activity 1
As of August 5, 2025, twenty-two communities have closed out their grant contract and all others are in process of closing out their grant programs. Of the 35 community grantees, 34 have requested reimbursement for work completed. As shown in attachment '2020-054 Community Updated Totals 2025 08.05', a total of sixteen communities have completed tree inventories, and fourteen completed the development of an EAB management plan. 2045 trees have been removed, 5078 trees have been planted, and 8489 ash have been protected with a non-neonicotinoid insecticide. *(This activity marked as complete as of this status update)*

Activity 2
DNR Resource Assessment has completed the tree survey sample for 280 communities across the state and compiled results for communities, an example for the city of Otsego can be found in the 'Attachments' section, titled 'Otsego Tree Report'. DNR Resource Assessment has completed canopy change mapping using LIDAR and aerial imagery, comparing 2010 data to 2013 data and showing where canopy has been gained, lost, or maintained in over 300 communities in the state. This tool is now in a web application, as shown in attachment 'RapidAssessmentCommunityTreeReportViewer08.25' and is being demoed to communities across the state to garner feedback prior to the public release. In fall of 2025, the tool showing canopy change and Rapid Assessment results will be released to the public, and by early 2026 information regarding the benefits of community trees (stormwater mitigation, carbon sequestration, etc.) will also be available through this tool. DNR Urban & Community Forestry staff will conduct five outreach and education events across the state to showcase the tool and provide context on how it can be best utilized.

Dissemination
The 'About' pop up in the ArcGIS web map credits LCCMR funding for the project and includes the LCCMR logo, as shown in attachment 'WebMapWelcome08.25'

Status Update Reporting

Status Update April 1, 2025

Date Submitted: May 20, 2025

Date Approved: May 20, 2025

Overall Update
Grant partners and recipients continue to make progress towards meeting their community forestry goals, with some communities having already met all grant requirements. No usable data was received from the University of Minnesota - Remote Sensing Lab. Funds were successfully returned to the DNR and reallocated to DNR Resource Assessment. DNR Resource Assessment has completed the initial canopy change layers and is in process of checking for errors. Map showing canopy change layers is on track for completion by June 30, 2025.

Activity 1
As of April 1, 2025, fourteen communities have closed out their grant contract and all others are in process. Of the 35 community grantees, 34 have requested reimbursement for work completed. As shown in attachment '2020-054 Community Updated Totals 2025 04.01', a total of sixteen communities have completed tree inventories, and fourteen completed the development of an EAB management plan. 1675 trees have been removed, 3594 trees have been planted, and 7239 ash have been protected with a non-neonicotinoid insecticide. The Minnesota Department of Agriculture has completed EAB monitoring, and assessment surveys and has hosted management workshops throughout the state. The MDA has completed tree condition assessments from 213 cities on the leading edge of EAB infestation have been assessed, data analysis is being conducted by the UMN Entomology Department. Tree Trust has continued to provide support to project-funded communities, assisting with planting efforts in Newport, South St. Paul, and West Concord in 2024, as shown in 'Tree Trust Report 2024'. In April 2025, Tree Trust provided planting assistance to West Concord and has plans to continue with assistance in South St. Paul throughout the month of May.

Activity 2
DNR Resource Assessment has completed the tree survey sample for 301 communities across the state and compiled results as shown in 'Rapid Tree Survey City Status_2025 5.14' and 'Rapid Assessment Community Tree Survey Sample 03.28'. Rapid Assessment is working to finalize these results and will then make them publicly available to assist communities when assessing their tree canopy. DNR Resource Assessment is in the final stages of mapping canopy changes using 2010 and 2024 aerial imagery, when this is complete, they will create a publicly available mapping tool showing canopy change in communities across the state. Once mapping is complete, the information will be used to quantify the environmental and economic benefits of community forests state wide, including those with grant-funded projects. We anticipate being able to provide a comprehensive analysis once all relevant data has been compiled and verified.

Dissemination
All grantees are required, per their contract, to acknowledge the ENRTF in all communications related to the project. Grantees receive specific language and logos to use for this purpose. ENRTF will be acknowledged prominently in all public-facing web-based mapping tools developed by through this work. Additionally, DNR will highlight ENRTF's support during outreach and promotional efforts following the release of the mapping tool.

Status Update Reporting

Status Update October 1, 2024

Date Submitted: November 5, 2024

Date Approved: November 13, 2024

Overall Update

Grant partners and recipients continue to make progress towards meeting their community forestry goals, with some communities having already met all grant requirements. Grant recipient communities are on track to complete all projects by June 30, 2025. Work towards quantifying the impact of management work on the growth and spread of EAB populations continues, with the University of Minnesota- Entomology Lab on track to complete report by June 30, 2025. DNR Resource Assessment has completed state-wide canopy assessments and is processing data for community reports on tree canopy composition. DNR staff are currently working to get data from the University of Minnesota - Remote Sensing Lab to move towards the project outcome of a web-mapping tool for public use. DNR staff have encountered unforeseen difficulties getting data from U of M, and despite multiple attempts at contact over the past 6 months, are still attempting to receive deliverables. If data is received in the next few weeks, project outcomes will still be on track for completion by June 30, 2025.

Activity 1

As of October 1, 2024, five communities have closed out their grant contract and all others are in process. Of the 35 community grantees, 32 have requested reimbursement for work completed. As shown in attachment '2020-054 Community Updated Totals 2024 9.23', a total of sixteen communities have completed tree inventories, and thirteen completed the development of an EAB management plan. 1585 trees have been removed, 3138 trees have been planted, and 4533 ash have been protected with a non-neonicotinoid insecticide. The Minnesota Department of Agriculture has completed EAB monitoring and assessment surveys and has hosted management workshops throughout the state. MDA surveyed 213 communities for EAB (as shown in attachment 'MDA EAB City Survey Status 6.30.24'), offered 13 workshops in areas of new EAB confirmation, and has held annual virtual and in person Spring regional meeting workshops since 2022. Analysis of data collected by the MDA is being conducted by the UMN Entomology Department. University of Minnesota Urban and Community Forestry staff led five Tree Steward trainings to grant recipient communities. University of Minnesota Remote Sensing Lab has completed 2010 and 2021 canopy mapping of the state for comparison, and is finalizing the tree canopy change map.

Activity 2

DNR Resource Assessment has completed 1,130 of 1,167 for the tree survey sample. DNR Resource assessment has completed Rapid Assessment of 280 communities across the state. University of Minnesota - Remote Sensing Lab, has not yet provided final data set showing canopy change in the state between 2011 and 2021. DNR staff have been working to get data from U of M but have not received a usable data set yet. If data is received, DNR Resource Assessment will integrate data into map showing community tree survey results and canopy change information for the state to be completed by early 2025. MN DNR staff have created a plan for hosting workshops across the state showcasing the tool and providing hands-on learning opportunities for community members, scheduled to start in February 2025.

Dissemination

DNR Resource Assessment continued to utilize the handout to inform the public when asked about conducting the tree survey sample.

Status Update Reporting

Status Update April 1, 2024

Date Submitted: May 31, 2024

Date Approved: June 11, 2024

Overall Update
Grant partners and recipients continue to make progress towards meeting their community forestry goals, with some communities having already met all grant requirements.

Activity 1
As of April 1, 2024, two communities have closed out their grant contract and all others are in process. Of the 35 community grantees, 32 have requested reimbursement for work completed. As shown in attachment '2020-054 Community Updated Totals 2024 3.26', a total of fifteen communities have completed tree inventories, and thirteen completed the development of an EAB management plan. 1397 1389 trees have been removed, 2363 trees have been planted, and 4262 ash have been protected with a non-neonicotinoid insecticide. The Minnesota Department of Agriculture has surveyed 209 communities for EAB (as shown in attachment 'MDA EAB City Survey Status 3.31.24'), offered 11 workshops in areas of new EAB confirmation, and has held annual virtual and in person Spring regional meeting workshops since 2022. University of Minnesota Urban and Community Forestry staff has provided tree identification training to DNR Rapid Assessment interns, lead three Tree Steward trainings to grant recipient communities, and have provided staff for grant review committees. Spring planting events are currently underway.

Activity 2
Data collection for the Rapid Tree Survey did not occur over the winter months, as a result there is no change in number of transects completed since October 1, 2023. One AmeriCorps Community Forestry Corps member, along with four DNR interns will be assisting with this effort over the summer. University of Minnesota Remote Sensing Lab has completed 2010 and 2021 canopy mapping of the state for comparison, and is finalizing the tree canopy change map as shown in attachment 'UMN Remote Sensing Updates 1.24'. DNR Resource Assessment has completed 669 of 1,167 for the tree survey sample.150 of 300 cities are complete, and 34 are currently in progress as shown in 'Rapid Tree Survey City Status_2024 3.26'.

Dissemination
DNR Resource Assessment continued to utilize the handout to inform the public when asked about conducting the tree survey sample. As shown in attachment 'LCCMR Project Mentions 4.1' DNR staff identified one news article highlighting the work this project is supporting across the state.

Status Update Reporting

Status Update October 1, 2023

Date Submitted: September 30, 2023

Date Approved: November 21, 2023

Overall Update
Grant partners and recipients continue to make progress towards meeting their community forestry goals, with some communities having already met all grant requirements. An individual was hired into the Project Specialist position for this program in July 2023.

Activity 1
As of October 1, 2023, one community has closed out their grant contract, and all others are in process. Of the 35 community grantees, 25 have requested reimbursement for work completed. As shown in attachment '2020-054 Community Updated Totals 2023 9.28', a total of fourteen communities have completed tree inventories and eleven completed the development of an EAB management plan. 1169 trees have been removed, 1569 trees have been planted, and 2030 ash have been protected with a non-neonicotinoid insecticide. Partners are in process of meeting grant accomplishments. LCCMR support has continued to assist in early detection finds of EAB. Fall planting events are underway.

Activity 2
DNR Resource Assessment has completed 669 of 1,167 transects for the tree survey sample. DNR Resource Assessment has completed 150 of 300 cities, and 34 are currently in progress as shown in 'Rapid Tree Survey City Status_2023 9.28'. Two AmeriCorps Community Forestry Corps members will be joining the DNR this fall to assist in completing this initiative.

Dissemination
DNR Resource Assessment continued to utilize the handout to inform the public when asked about conducting the tree survey sample. As shown in attachment 'LCCMR Project Mentions 9.29' DNR staff identified 12 news articles highlighting the work this project is supporting across the state.

Status Update Reporting

Status Update April 1, 2023

Date Submitted: May 12, 2023

Date Approved: May 17, 2023

Overall Update
Grant recipients and partners are all in progress to meet community forestry goals. There are continued delays in DNR hiring Project Specialist to manage program.

Activity 1
All community grant contracts have been executed and are in process. Of the total 35 community grantees, 17 community grantees have requested reimbursement for work completed. As o this reporting period, and as shown on spreadsheet "2020-054 Community Updated Totals 2023 04.14" a total of six communities had completed tree inventories, one completed the development of a management plan, 75 trees had been removed, 427 trees had been planted, and 1909 ash had been protected with a non-neonicotinoid insecticide. Partner's are in process of meeting grant accomplishments. LCCMR support has assisted in early detection of new finds of EAB. Spring planting events are being planned for the coming season.

Activity 2
DNR Resource Assessment has completed 179 of 1,167 transects for the tree survey sample. DNR Resource Assessment has started on 33 of 300 cities and completed 21 of them as shown in "Rapid Tree Survey City Status_2022 4.1". There had not yet been concerns with meeting this initiative, however we were not successful in recruiting enough interns this year and we are needing to explore alternative staffing options.

Dissemination
DNR Resource Assessment created a handout to provide to the public when asked about conducting the tree survey sample.

Status Update Reporting

Status Update October 1, 2022

Date Submitted: October 3, 2022

Date Approved: October 19, 2022

Overall Update
Partner contracts have been fully executed and are in process of meeting accomplishments. Request for proposals for competitive community grants was released, reviewed, selected, and grant contracts are fully executed. Communities are in process of meeting accomplishments.

Activity 1
Partner contracts have been fully executed and partners are in process of providing community education and technical assistance.
DNR received 50 applications for community competitive grants, with a request of $4,240,726. A total of 35 applications were funded and their contracts have been fully executed. Community projects include tree inventory, developing management plans, tree removal, tree planting, and chemical treatment of ash trees with injectable non-neonicotinoid insecticide.

Activity 2
Partner contracts have been fully executed and are in process. DNR Resource Assessment has refined community tree survey methodology and updated survey maps based on increased development and urbanization. UMN Community Forestry has provided tree identification trainings and assisted DNR Resource Assessment in statistically sampled tree surveys. UMN Remote Sensing has compared surface model data to evaluate quality of the new stereo derived data compared to the LIDAR and will support creating forest change layers showing canopy loss and gain. MDA has developed, in partnership with UMN Entomology, a survey application to assess infestation conditions in infestation border communities.

Dissemination
A website was developed to advertise grants: https://www.dnr.state.mn.us/grants/forestmgmt/protect-community-forests.html. A webinar was offered to discuss the grant opportunity and has since been viewed over 190 times. Using DNR funds as match, three different advertisements were developed advertising the available community competitive grants. Our statewide newspaper ad was placed in 227 newspapers with a circulation of 676,000. This ad will appeared once in the newspapers. 50 newspapers participate in the digital ads with roughly 130,000 weekly impressions. The digital ad ran for one week.

Status Update Reporting

Status Update April 1, 2022

Date Submitted: April 27, 2022

Date Approved: May 16, 2022

Overall Update
Partner meetings have been held, contracts have been fully executed, partner work has begun. The request for proposal (RPF) for competitive grants has been run, grantee's have been notified of award, contract execution is in process.
Position description has been submitted to human resources for audit.
Activity 1 grant promotion images are within the attachment.

Activity 1
Partner contracts have been executed. The RFP was released November 29, 2021 and closed on January 24, 2022. DNR received 50 applications for a total of $4,240,725.81 in requests. The grant review committee selected 35 applicants for award. Grantees have been notified of award status and contracts are in development.

Activity 2
Contracts have been executed. Communities have been selected and methodology is being updated and solidified based on population changes. As population sizes have changed within community boundaries, our survey methods need to be updated to maintain statistical sampling accuracy.

Dissemination
Activity 1 has a webpage: https://www.dnr.state.mn.us/grants/forestmgmt/protect-community-forests.html
A webinar was hosted to disseminate information about EAB and the available grant funds on November 29, 2021. DNR promoted grants through digital advertising, email newsletters, and press releases.