



Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund

M.L. 2026 Approved Work Plan

General Information

ID Number: 2026-528

Staff Lead: Erin Barton

Date this document submitted to LCCMR: May 27, 2026

Project Title: Mahnomen Emerald Ash Borer Preparation Project

Project Budget: \$62,000

Project Manager Information

Name: Taylor Guenther

Organization: City of Mahnomen

Office Telephone: (218) 935-2573

Email: taylor@citymahnomen.com

Web Address:

Project Reporting

Date Work Plan Approved by LCCMR: June 17, 2026

Reporting Schedule: April 1 / October 1 of each year.

Project Completion: June 30, 2029

Final Report Due Date: August 14, 2029

Legal Information

Legal Citation: M.L. 2026, Chp. 104, Sec. 2, Subd. 03i

Appropriation Language: \$62,000 the second year is from the trust fund to the commissioner of natural resources for an agreement with the city of Mahnomen to remove and replace ash trees vulnerable to emerald ash borer and to create a more diverse and resilient tree canopy.

Appropriation End Date: June 30, 2029

Narrative

Project Summary: The City of Mahnomen seeks funds to remove and replace ash trees that currently make up 67.5% of the community's urban canopy, while also addressing food insecurity.

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

Mahnomen lies 47 miles from Moorhead and Dilworth, where EAB was found in 2023. That same year, EAB was found 115 miles east of Mahnomen in Remer Township. With the proximity to these known infestations and the black ash swamps in Northern MN; Mahnomen stands in a unique position to help slow the spread of EAB to this sensitive ecological area in MN. The DNR states that if the black ash in this ecosystem would die, this habitat "may change over to grass, cattails, and shrubs, threatening the plants and animals that rely on black ash and forest habitats." Furthermore, black ash is culturally significant to the Ojibwe and the Anishinaabe for making baskets and tools. By removing and replacing a majority of Mahnomen's ash trees, Mahnomen can diversify its tree canopy and make it resilient against this and other future threats. Furthermore, the city hopes to add some fruit trees to enhance the regional food insecurity needs of the community.

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.

Mahnomen would like to seek contractor assistance to remove many of its publicly-owned ash trees. The city does not have the proper equipment to remove larger ash trees. The community is also short-staffed and has three people working in the Public Works department. For the large project work needed, funding and contractor assistance are critical to mobilizing the action needed to prepare for emerald ash borer. This funding would also allow the city to rent the proper equipment to remove some of the smaller ash trees.

Mahnomen conducted a tree inventory and an emerald ash borer management plan. For the initial stage of this project, Mahnomen would like to focus on the most unhealthy ash trees. There are some very large ash trees in the community. According to the tree inventory, there are 63 trees that are of marginal health status. Since the emerald ash borer is more attracted to stressed trees, Mahnomen seeks to remove these unhealthy trees first; eliminating the greatest risk of infestation and hazard to the community. Ash tree death occurs very quickly without any action in an infested community, and dead ash trees become very dry, brittle, and hazardous.

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?

Mahnomen needs to diversify its urban tree canopy, of which 67% is currently ash. This is against best forestry practice, which promotes the 20-10-5 rule. If EAB infests Mahnomen's ash population without any preparation; the ash trees could succumb very quickly once the infestation is established according to the ash tree death curve seen in other communities. Acting preemptively ensures better protection for neighboring communities, benefits the local ecosystem, and protects residents from the risk of brittle and dangerous standing dead ash trees. Acting proactively helps to protect the neighboring black ash swamps from an unbridled infestation.

Project Location

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

City(s): Mahnomen

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

Region(s): NW

When will the work impact occur?

During the Project

Activities and Milestones

Activity 1: Ash Tree Removal and Replacement Project (2026-2029)

Activity Budget: \$62,000

Activity Description:

The City of Mahanomen seeks funding to systematically remove and replace ash trees susceptible to Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) over a multi-year period. In 2026, the city will obtain quotes and hire a contractor to remove up to (50) moderate/unhealthy ash trees from public boulevards. The city will replace the (50) ash removed on boulevards, and in addition will plant of (6) fruit trees at the south park. A contractor will be secured to handle removals, with work planned to minimize disruption and ensure efficiency.

In 2027, replacement trees will be purchased and planted to enhance canopy diversity and compensate for lost environmental benefits. The city will coordinate with nurseries for tree delivery and implement a watering plan to ensure successful establishment.

Additionally, Mahanomen has been awarded NWRSDP assistance to engage the community in selecting replacement species, ensuring public awareness and participation in the urban forestry plan. This project aims to strengthen Mahanomen’s urban forest, enhancing resilience against future threats while maintaining canopy coverage. We will use BWSR guidelines to the extent possible for species selection and species that compliment boulevard locations. Native trees will be prioritized for foraging for pollinators/birds.

Activity Milestones:

Description	Approximate Completion Date
2026 - Obtain Quotes for Tree Removal	July 31, 2026
2026 - Work with Contractor for removals	February 28, 2027
2027 - Plant Replacement Trees (56) Split Fall/Spring	October 31, 2027
2028-2029 - Finish Removals & Replacements as Needed & Watering	October 31, 2028

Project Partners and Collaborators

Name	Organization	Role	Receiving Funds
Crystal Rayamajhi	Northwest Regional Sustainable Development Partnerships (NWRSDP)	Provide technical assistance on emerald ash borer management and urban forestry as needed. Assist with implementation as needed.	No

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.

Update information on the city website and Facebook updates of removal and replacement efforts along with outreach conducted to residents regarding what to do with Ash on their private property. The Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund will be acknowledged through use of the trust fund logo and attribution language to all flyers/letters provided to residents and public information.

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?

Mahnomen plans to complete most ash tree removal and replacement within a three-year project period but lacks sufficient funds. Early action is crucial, and after the project, Mahnomen will use best forestry practices to maintain newly planted trees and address issues like pruning to prevent vehicle damage. The city is exploring ways to enhance public works' capacity, including renting equipment, while seeking additional funding. Mahnomen has submitted a proposal for public engagement on tree selection and potential EAB management. Fruit trees will be planted to help combat food desert status, with signage for public education.

Budget Summary

Category / Name	Subcategory or Type	Description	Purpose	Gen. Ineligible	% Benefits	# FTE	Classified Staff?	\$ Amount
Personnel								
							Sub Total	-
Contracts and Services								
TBD	Service Contract	Tree removal, Clean-up, and Stump grinding				0.9		\$49,000
							Sub Total	\$49,000
Equipment, Tools, and Supplies								
	Tools and Supplies	(50) Replacement Boulevard Trees	Replacement trees for removed Ash Trees					\$10,500
	Tools and Supplies	Purchase of (6) Fruit Trees	Add tree diversity and food source.					\$1,500
	Equipment	Boom Truck Rental from Local Wild Rice Electric Co-op	City staff tree removal efficiency					\$1,000
							Sub Total	\$13,000
Capital Equipment								
							Sub Total	-
Acquisitions and Stewardship								
							Sub Total	-
Travel In Minnesota								
							Sub Total	-
Travel Outside Minnesota								
							Sub Total	-

Printing and Publication								
							Sub Total	-
Other Expenses								
							Sub Total	-
							Grand Total	\$62,000

Classified Staff or Generally Ineligible Expenses

Category/Name	Subcategory or Type	Description	Justification Ineligible Expense or Classified Staff Request
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Non ENRTF Funds

Category	Specific Source	Use	Status	\$ Amount
State				
In-Kind	NWSDP	RSDP Technical Assistance	Secured	\$2,000
			State Sub Total	\$2,000
Non-State				
In-Kind	City Contribution	City staff hours for tree planting	Secured	\$5,000
In-Kind	City Contribution	City staff hours for tree watering for two seasons	Secured	\$8,000
			Non State Sub Total	\$13,000
			Funds Total	\$15,000

Total Project Cost: \$77,000

This amount accurately reflects total project cost?

Yes

Attachments

Required Attachments

Visual Component

File: [986bd8d3-878.pdf](#)

Alternate Text for Visual Component

Completed EAB Ash Tree Identifying Map in City Limits...

Financial Capacity

Title	File
City Tax Exempt ST3 Form	5f998c7e-e4f.pdf
2024 City Audit Report	f4d6c77d-e7c.pdf
2nd Qtr Budget YTD Rev-Exp - Council Review	237edd15-30a.pdf

Board Resolution or Letter

Title	File
Support Letter	ec30a04a-0fe.pdf

Supplemental Attachments

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

Title	File
2023 EAB Management Plan	ace8e3ff-bd1.pdf

Media Links

Title	Link
City of Mahnomen EAB webpage	https://www.mahnomenmn.org/emerald-ash-borer

Difference between Proposal and Work Plan

Describe changes from Proposal to Work Plan Stage

No core changes besides the upload of most recent financial statements and answering of "new" questions.

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?

N/A

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

Does your project include the pre-design, design, construction, or renovation of a building, trail, campground, or other fixed capital asset costing \$10,000 or more or large-scale stream or wetland restoration?

No

Do you propose using an appropriation from the Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund to conduct a project that provides children's services (as defined in Minnesota Statutes section 299C.61 Subd.7 as "the provision of care, treatment, education, training, instruction, or recreation to children")?

No

Provide the name(s) and organization(s) of additional individuals assisting in the completion of this project:

Mitch Berg - City of Mahnommen Project Consultant

Do you understand that a named service contract does not constitute a funder-designated subrecipient or approval of a sole-source contract? In other words, a service contract entity is only approved if it has been selected according to the contracting rules identified in state law and policy for organizations that receive ENRTF funds through direct appropriations, or in the DNR's reimbursement manual for non-state organizations. These rules may include competitive bidding and prevailing wage requirements

Yes, I understand