

**Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund  
2010 Request for Proposals (RFP)**

---

**LCCMR ID: 120-D**

**Project Title:**

Emerald Ash Borer Mitigation Plan for Urban Forests

---

**LCCMR 2010 Funding Priority:**

D. Invasive Species

---

**Total Project Budget: \$** \$149,700

**Proposed Project Time Period for the Funding Requested:** 2 years, 2010 - 2012

**Other Non-State Funds: \$** \$97,200

---

**Summary:**

This project will develop and implement a replicable process to mitigate the impacts of the Emerald Ash Borer on our urban forests. This process can then be used throughout Minnesota.

---

**Name:** David Bucklin

**Sponsoring Organization:** Greater Blue Earth River Basin Alliance

**Address:** 339 9th Street  
Windom MN 56159

**Telephone Number:** (507) 831-1153

**Email:** david.bucklin@mn.nacdn.net

**Fax:** (507) 831 2928

**Web Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

---

**Location:**

**Region:** SW, SE

**County Name:** Blue Earth, Cottonwood, Faribault, Freeborn, Jackson, Le Sueur, Martin, Waseca,  
Watowan

**City / Township:**

---

_____ Knowledge Base	_____ Broad App.	_____ Innovation
_____ Leverage	_____ Outcomes	
_____ Partnerships	_____ Urgency	_____ TOTAL

---

# MAIN PROPOSAL

## PROJECT TITLE: Emerald Ash Borer Mitigation Plan for Urban Forests.

### I. PROJECT STATEMENT

The destruction of 40 percent of Minnesota's trees is on our doorstep. Will we be preemptive or will we be reactive? This project will prepare nine communities for the Emerald Ash Borer and insure diverse well managed urban forests. It will also reduce urban storm water runoff by up to 540 million gallons in the Greater Blue Earth River Watershed Counties. This is 20% reduction in urban runoff in nine communities. This run off projection is based on "Identified Benefits of Community Trees and Forests" by Dr. Kim D. Coder University of Georgia 1996, and other similar studies. The stated benefit is "for every 5% of tree cover area added to a community, run off is reduced by approximately 2%". This run off reduction will also provide a similar reduction in multiple impairments now entering the Greater Blue Earth Basin through storm water runoff. Our urban forests are a neglected resource. With this funding we will we will revitalize the green infrastructure in at least nine communities. Most urban forest plans were last updated when the Dutch elm disease came through in the 1960s. The nine communities will be one each in the counties of Blue Earth, Cottonwood, Faribault, Freeborn, Jackson, Le Sueur, Martin, Waseca, and Watonwan, all members of the Greater Blue Earth River Basin Alliance. What makes this proposal critical is the arrival of the Emerald Ash Borer which will destroy up to 60% of our urban forests, our ash trees. A 60% reduction in urban trees will also result in a Twenty percent increase in storm water runoff. The time to be preemptive is now. If we do not act now we are going to relive the over planting mistakes of the past. (1950s Elm, 1960s Ash, 2010s?) This grant proposal is based on a very successful LCCMR-funded tree program in Mountain Lake, Minnesota. The Mountain Lake urban forest program is EAB ready.

### II. DESCRIPTION OF PROJECT RESULTS

**Result 1: Choose communities and establish tree commissions. Budget \$ 41,700.00**

**Deliverable Completion Date Summer 2010**

1 The SWCDs in each County overseen by GBERBA will select a community with a population of less than five thousand residents. A community of that size will have limited budgets to deal with the urban forest issues. The SWCD will contact the larger communities first by approaching the city council members. We will be open to the option of working with multiple towns in a county as funds allow. The City will agree in an official council resolution to participate in the program and commit the \$3,000.00 match per year for a minimum of three years. This is a 75% match to the LCCMR funds by each community. Each town will also designate a certified tree inspector. A volunteer citizen committee will be established to advise the City Councils and rewrite the City tree ordinance as needed to bring up to current standards.

**Result 2: Community Tree Surveys Budget: \$ 9,000.00**

**Deliverable Completion Date Fall 2010**

1 Each Community will conduct a public tree survey. The survey will be done by Community Volunteers, SWCDs, DNR foresters, and the Minnesota Conservation Corps. if needed. The MCC staff will be hired with each communities match dollars. All public street trees will be surveyed. The survey will be a starting point that will give us tree specie populations in the urban forest and assist with tree selection. The survey will also identify tree openings, and hazard trees for removal.

**Result 3: Plant trees in the Communities Budget \$ 99,000.00**

**Deliverable Completion Date Summer 2011-12**

1. Using the tree survey the tree commissions of each community will select species of trees to plant using the 10-20-30 rule. No more than 10% of any one specie of tree, no more than 20% of any one genus and no more than 30% of any one family of trees. This is the key to prevent further specie overplanting problems. Landowners will be contacted about potential removals and plantings by the tree commissions.

**Result 4: Reduce Peak Flows and Replicate Project for Statewide Use**  
**Deliverable** **Completion Date Summer 2013**

**Budget \$ None**

1. After three years of the project we will have at least nine communities prepared for the Emerald Ash Borer and will have planted trees to reduce urban runoff by 5% in the nine communities.

2. This project will serve as a prototype to be replicated. The DNR staff will create brochures and provide technical direction to facilitate the distribution of this program to communities throughout Minnesota.

**III. PROJECT STRATEGY AND TIMELINE**

**A. Project Partners**

**Soil and Water Conservation Districts in each of the nine counties.** The SWCDs will choose the communities based on the population and ability to complete the project. The SWCD will facilitate the forming of the tree commissions and walk the members through the start up period. The SWCD will assist with tree selection and provide the trees at wholesale cost for this project.

**City Councils of the nine communities.** The councils will agree to participate in the program and commit the required match dollars to the project. If needed, they will ratify a new tree ordinance.

**DNR Forestry.** Area and statewide staff will provide technical assistance, training workshops and document the project for statewide replication.

**Minnesota Conservation Corps.** The MCC crews will assist with the tree survey and planting if available. If needed the MCC crews will be paid with the individual communities cash match.

**Landowners.** The landowners will be given the choice to plant a new tree in their boulevard area. With each tree planted a \$10 co pay will be collected from the landowner.

**B. Project Impact**

This project will prepare for the arrival of the EAB and lessen the urban storm water runoff by up to 20% in nine small urban communities. This will lessen flood impacts downstream. The reduced runoff could be as much as 60 million gallons per community per year. The \$149,700.00 dollars requested of the LCCMR will accomplish all the project goals. The approved TMDL implementation plans for the Lower Minnesota River Dissolved Oxygen TMDL and the Greater Blue Earth River Fecal TMDL call for a reduction in urban storm water run off. Storm water runoff is also identified in the Lake Pepin TMDL Plan-2. This project will address those concerns.

**C. Time**

July, 1 2010. Begin work with selected community's city councils. Advertise the project and have volunteer meetings and establish tree commissions in each community.

Fall of 2010. complete urban tree survey. Contact landowners with hazard trees and landowners with openings for new trees. With the survey results tree selection and ordering can proceed.

Winter 2010. the tree commissions will write or rewrite tree ordinances for the nine communities.

The City Councils will approve the new ordinances. Remove hazard trees.

Spring 2011 Plant the trees. Remove hazard trees.

Summer 2011 Contact landowners for the next springs plantings and hazard tree removals.

Spring 2012 Plant the trees. Remove hazard trees.

**D. Long-Term Strategy**

Each community will agree to maintain the cash funding for the three years (one year beyond the grant). We expected that the success of the project in the early years will show the long term value to each community. The project in Mountain Lake has post grant ongoing funding provided by the City Council of \$12,000.00 per year. This project will also provide a template for other communities to revitalize urban forests throughout Minnesota.

## Project Budget

### Emerald Ash Borer Mitigation Plan for Urban Forests.

#### IV. TOTAL PROJECT REQUEST BUDGET

<u>BUDGET ITEM</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>	<u>% FTE</u>
<b>Personnel:</b> SWCD/County project coordinator in 9 Counties. 7% FTE X9	36,000.00	7%
The Greater Blue Earth River Basin Alliance Staff, over all project coordination.	3,000.00	5%
<b>Other:</b> Project advertising and promotion. Local newspapers, and meetings. \$300.00 per Community = \$2,700.00	2,700.00	
<b>Other:</b> Tree purchase, planting, tree surveys. \$6,000.00 per 2 years x 9 communities.	108,000.00	
<b>TOTAL PROJECT BUDGET REQUEST TO LCCMR</b>	<b>149,700.00</b>	

#### V. OTHER FUNDS

<u>SOURCE OF FUNDS</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>	<u>Status</u>
<b>Other Non-State \$ Being Leveraged During Project Period:</b> Community cash match amounts \$3,000.00 x 3 yrs x 9 communities. = <b>\$81,000.00</b> Landowner cash match, \$10 per tree x 180 trees over 3 years x 9 communities. = <b>\$16,200.00</b>	\$97,200.00	<i>Partially secured</i>
<b>In-kind Services During Project Period:</b> Volunteers for tree commissions, 5 volunteers x 9 communities x 10 hrs per year x 2 years. = <b>\$9,000.00</b> GBERBA Technical and Policy meeting up dates and discussion on project. 150 hrs over 2 years. = <b>\$3,000.00</b> Minnesota DNR Forestry 4% x 5 staff = <b>\$12,000</b> (20% of an FTE) for documenting project, technical assistance and printing costs.	\$24,000.00	

# GREATER BLUE EARTH RIVER BASIN ALLIANCE

This grant proposal will serve 40,000 people in nine communities within the Greater Blue Earth River Basin.



## 2010 LCCMR EAB Summary

### The Emerald Ash Borer Mitigation Plan for Urban Forests

This project will develop and implement a replicable process to mitigate the impacts of the Emerald Ash Borer on our urban forests. This process can then be used throughout Minnesota.

#### **Project Manager Qualifications, David Bucklin.**

Cottonwood SWCD District Technician 19 years  
The Greater Blue Earth River Basin Alliance Technical Coordinator 2006-present  
Member of the Mountain Lake Tree Commission from inception. 2004-present  
Manager of an EQIP Forestry stand improvement Grant, Buckthorn control 2006-2010

Presentation at the Minnesota SWCD Forestry Association Conference  
March 26-27, 2008. Emerging Issues On Family Forestland, The Emerald Ash Borer in Cottonwood County.

Presentation at the MASWCD State Employees Training Conference, June 23-25 2008.  
The Emerald Ash Borer in Minnesota.

#### **Organization Description.**

##### **The Greater Blue Earth River Basin Alliance.**

The Greater Blue Earth River Basin Alliance was formed during the summer of 2003. Two natural resource groups (Blue Earth River Basin Initiative and the South Central Minnesota Comprehensive Water Planning Project) joined forces to form the Alliance. GBERBA consists of Commissioners and County Local Water Management staff, Soil and Water Conservation (SWCD) Supervisors and staff of nine counties. These counties are Blue Earth, Cottonwood, Faribault, Freeborn, Jackson, Le Sueur, Martin, Waseca, and Watonwan. A policy board oversees the Alliance. An Executive Committee and a Technical Committee are under the Policy Board. A joint powers agreement is on file with each of the nine counties and SWCD's.

##### **Vision Statement:**

The Greater Blue Earth River Basin has a vision of restored and revitalized local water resources that have improved the quality of life, local communities and its citizens.

##### **Mission Statement:**

The Greater Blue Earth Basin Alliance's mission is to lead in the promotion of economically viable watershed activities through the combined efforts of partners and the Greater Blue Earth River Basin Alliance.