

**Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund
2015 Request for Proposals (RFP)**

Project Title:

ENRTF ID: 094-D

Ash Tree Preservation: Environmental Education & Stewardship

Category: D. Aquatic and Terrestrial Invasive Species

Total Project Budget: \$ 85,590

Proposed Project Time Period for the Funding Requested: 3 years, July1 2015 - September 1 201

Summary:

Promoting environmental stewardship by preserving Oakdales Ash resource and positively changing the public mindset regarding green infrastructures role in public services is a primary goal of this project.

Name: Chris Larson

Sponsoring Organization: City of Oakdale

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Oakdale MN 55128

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Web Address _____

Location

Region: Metro

County Name: Washington

City / Township: Oakdale

Alternate Text for Visual:

The City of Oakdale is located in Washington County Minnesota. 267 Ash Trees will be treated.

_____ Funding Priorities	_____ Multiple Benefits	_____ Outcomes	_____ Knowledge Base
_____ Extent of Impact	_____ Innovation	_____ Scientific/Tech Basis	_____ Urgency
_____ Capacity Readiness	_____ Leverage	_____ TOTAL	



Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund (ENRTF)

2015 Main Proposal

Project Title: Ash Tree Preservation: Environmental Education & Stewardship

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I. PROJECT STATEMENT

The purpose of this project is to connect the inhabitants of the City of Oakdale with the incredible services provided by individual components of natural resources (trees), as well as the sustainable services of ecological systems in Oakdale. This project will achieve the goals of environmental stewardship and education by preserving 267 ash trees over a 4 year period and by hiring seasonal urban forestry interns to promote green infrastructure, ecological plantings, and natural services. This project needs to be done to preserve Oakdale’s boulevard ash trees and to educate urban dwelling people about the valuable ecological services provided by local natural resources and the role that people have as stewards of natural resources. This project addresses the disconnect that many urban dwellers have with nature while exercising environmental stewardship by preserving ash trees threatened by Emerald Ash Borer which has infested trees within 4 miles of Oakdale. This project will protect high condition ash trees with treatments that prevent them from becoming infested with the exotic, invasive, Emerald Ash Borer. This project proposes to bring education to people right in their neighborhoods on their boulevard ash trees. Educational information posted on high condition ash trees selected for preservation will highlight the benefits each tree provides and will direct people to website information and the Oakdale Forest Garden demonstration. Website information will highlight nature working for us and the economic value of nature services. The Oakdale Forest Garden demonstration located in the heart of Oakdale Nature Preserve highlights ecology and restoration in an urban park setting. This project proposes to incorporate more native plant material with diverse ecological connections into the developing Forest Garden. This project will measure the estimated stormwater runoff avoided while preserving boulevard ash trees, and this project will measure the increase in soil organic matter content. Public feedback will be encouraged and documented as a measure of public outreach.

II. PROJECT ACTIVITIES AND OUTCOMES

Activity 1: Ash Tree Preservation

Budget: \$58,890.00

High condition ash trees in Oakdale boulevards will be injected with Tree~Age in 2015 and 2017

There are 267 high condition ash trees in Oakdale boulevards that need to be treated to prevent them from being infested with the Emerald Ash Borer. The City of Oakdale is only 4 miles from the nearest Emerald Ash Borer infestation which means that the pest is already in Oakdale but not detected yet. Oakdale’s 267 ash trees measure a collective 4330 inches of DBH which represents a significant environmental resource that needs to be preserved. The best pricing for injecting Tree~Age on a per inch DBH basis is currently \$6.50. Tree~Age is the most effective chemical protection on the market right now and it is considered a biorational pesticide.

Outcome	Completion Date
<i>1. Preserved Ash trees will prevent stormwater runoff, baseline iTree Streets calculation</i>	<i>July 20, 2015</i>
<i>2. Preserved Ash trees will grow and prevent more stormwater runoff, follow up iTree Streets calculation</i>	<i>July 20, 2017</i>
<i>3. Preserved Ash trees will sequester urban pollutants, baseline iTree Streets calculations</i>	<i>July 20, 2015</i>
<i>4. Preserved Ash trees will grow and sequester more urban pollutants, follow up iTree Streets calculations</i>	<i>July 20, 2017</i>



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Activity 2: Green Infrastructure, Ecological Plantings, Natural Services

Budget: \$26,700.00

Hire seasonally employed urban forestry interns to promote green infrastructure, ecological plantings, and natural services.

In order to promote green infrastructure, ecological plantings, and natural services the City of Oakdale will need to hire urban forestry interns in the spring and summer months of 2015, 2016, and 2017. It will be necessary for the urban forestry interns to quantify the benefits provided by our urban forest. Urban forestry interns will work with the City of Oakdale’s tree inventory and enter the information required to calculate benefits in iTree Streets and iTree Eco tree benefit calculator programs. The interns will need to make educational tree value tags to post on the preserved ash trees. The interns will develop educational materials promoting green infrastructure, ecological plantings, and natural services and have a booth at Oakdale’s Summerfest celebration. Interns will prepare educational materials for Forest Garden plantings, maintain polycultures, and plant new polycultures.

Outcome	Completion Date
1. Develop tree value tags for preserved ash trees	Sept. 1, 2015
2. Forest Garden polyculture planting 2015	Sept. 1, 2015
3. iTree Streets preserved ash tree calculations	Sept. 1 2015
4. Summerfest booth 2016	June 30, 2016
5. Calculate treated preserved ash tree benefits with iTree Eco	Sept. 1 2016
6. Forest Garden polyculture planting 2016	Sept. 1, 2016
7. Summerfest Booth 2017	June 30, 2017
8. Update tree inventory measurements	July 1, 2017
9. Calculate tree inventory values with iTree Streets	July 1, 2017
10. Forest Garden polyculture planting 2017	Sept. 1, 2017

III. PROJECT STRATEGY

A. Project Team/Partners

The project team is composed of the Environmental Services Superintendent / City Forester and two Environmental Services Maintenance Operators. The injections of Tree~Age will be performed by a contracted tree service company specializing in ash tree treatments.

B. Project Impact and Long-Term Strategy

This project will impact the health, well being, and the mindsets of the citizens of Oakdale. The long term environmental impact of ash tree preservation, and a shift in the mindsets of the citizens towards acknowledging the benefits of green infrastructure and ecological systems, will greatly benefit Oakdale’s natural resources because people will consciously protect and preserve those resources knowing that doing so is in their best interest. After the grant funding is gone and Emerald Ash Borer is wreaking havoc with ash trees all around the Twin Cities Metropolitan Area, the citizens of Oakdale will embrace the ash trees that were preserved and they will choose to continue protecting their ash trees. In the long term, the Forest Garden demonstration will continue to prosper and the added polycultures will educate people on the value of diversity in ecological systems. The Forest Garden teaches sustainability in the truest sense because it shows that when nature is functioning properly the system is cyclical with minimum waste or energy leaving the system.

C. Timeline Requirements

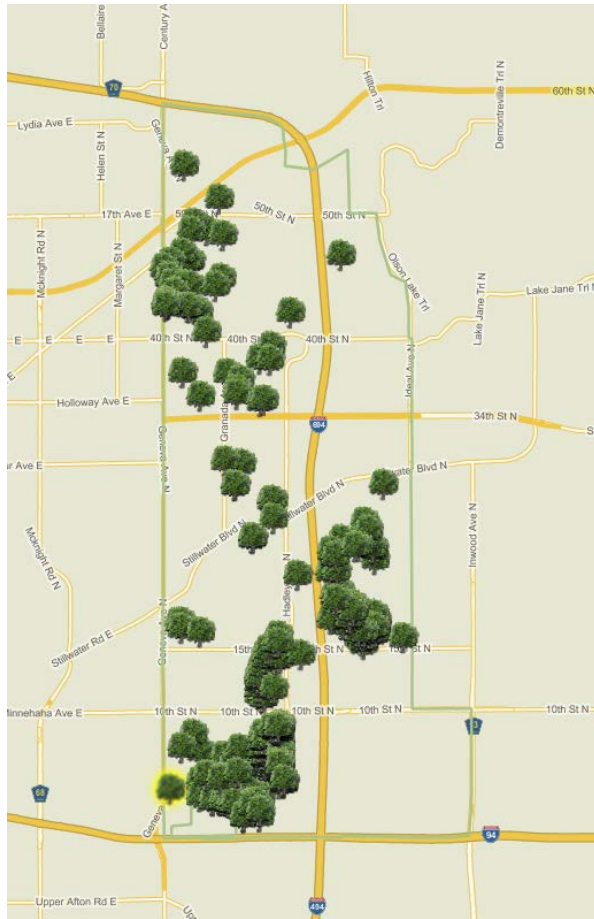
This project will commence on July 1, 2015 and this project will conclude on September 1, 2017. The project requires that 267 ash tree are treated as soon as possible in 2015 and again in early June of 2017. This project will require hiring urban forestry interns in July of 2015, in May of 2016, and in May of 2017. This project is relatively flexible in the timing of projects but will adhere to completion dates outlined in the activity sections.

Detailed Project Budget

PROJECT TITLE: Ash Tree Preservation: Environmental Education & Stewardship

Budget Item	Amount
Tree~Age Chemical Treatment 2015	\$28,145.00
Tree~Age Chemical Treatment 2017	\$30,745.00
Urban Forestry Intern 2015	\$6,400.00
Urban Forestry Intern 2016	\$6,900.00
Urban Forestry Intern 2017	\$7,400.00
Forest Garden Polyculture Plant Material 2015	\$2,000.00
Forest Garden Polyculture Plant Material 2016	\$2,000.00
Forest Garden Polyculture Plant Material 2017	\$2,000.00
Total Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund Request:	\$85,590.00

In Kind Services	Amount
Environmental Services Superintendent / City Forester : 240 Hours @ \$40.32	\$9,676.80



Preserved Ash Trees Throughout Oakdale MN

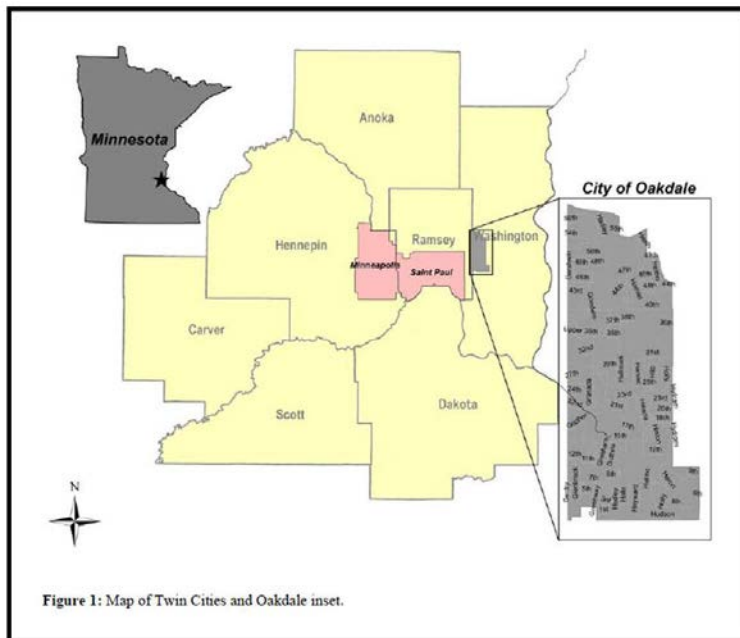


Figure 1: Map of Twin Cities and Oakdale inset.

Oakdale Location

Project Manager Qualification

Chris Larson

Environmental Services Superintendent / City Forester – City of Oakdale

B.S. Urban Forestry – University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point

Board Certified Master Arborist – International Society of Arboriculture

Municipal Specialist – International Society of Arboriculture

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