



# Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund

## 2023 Request for Proposal

### General Information

**Proposal ID:** 2023-013

**Proposal Title:** Community Forestry AmeriCorps

### Project Manager Information

**Name:** Sharon Delcambre

**Organization:** ServeMinnesota

**Office Telephone:** (651) 691-4604

**Email:** Sharon@serveminnesota.org

### Project Basic Information

**Project Summary:** Over three years, we will train, deploy, and support 150 members to build more resilient ecosystems in communities statewide. Members will focus on planting trees and conducting tree inventories.

**Funds Requested:** \$1,500,000

**Proposed Project Completion:** June 30, 2026

**LCCMR Funding Category:** Air Quality, Climate Change, and Renewable Energy (E)

### 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

## Narrative

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

Healthy trees provide numerous economic benefits: they slow and filter storm water, capture air pollution, provide windbreak, and offer shade; in contrast, decaying trees threaten human safety, property, and infrastructure. Minnesota contains over 1 billion ash trees, which are increasingly threatened by emerald ash borer (EAB). As northern Minnesota records many fewer days each year below -35°F, EAB is aggressively spreading to more communities in the state. 98% of emerald ash borer larvae die at -30°F, whereas only 79% die at -20°F. EAB jeopardizes the benefits of a healthy tree canopy and creates burdensome new costs to local communities. Facing a worker shortage, local agencies need support to adequately respond to the EAB infestation and manage care for the trees in their communities.

Community Forestry AmeriCorps directly addresses this challenge by training and strategically placing AmeriCorps members at partner organizations across the state. We measure impact across three related areas: (1) increases in tree canopy management activities across local agencies, (2) the associated economic benefits of increased tree canopy, and (3) the creation of a career pipeline for AmeriCorps members to enter the forestry profession, which currently faces a significant workforce shortage.

### **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.**

We leverage the people power of AmeriCorps to directly bolster local efforts to preserve tree canopy, by deploying service members to community-based sites throughout the state. Members will inventory and plant trees, develop and implement pest management plans, create and maintain nursery beds for replacement trees, and organize opportunities for community engagement in tree stewardship activities. We estimate that each tree planted offers more than \$100 in economic value over 25 years; by this figure alone, each member funded represents more than \$16,000 invested in the community. We provide this service at no cost to the community. In addition to their direct contributions, members also holistically extend the capacity of host sites and empower local agencies to implement strategic plans concerning further aspects of tree health, such as tree removal and community outreach.

There is a shortage of qualified labor in this field. As members serve, they gain practical skills and are afforded networking opportunities, tree inspection certification, and other professional development resources to prepare them for good-paying, careers. A \$10,000 investment from LCCMR pays increasing dividends over time. Two-thirds of last year's members report they are likely to pursue a forestry career as a result of their service opportunity.

### **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?**

We will recruit, train, deploy, and support 150 AmeriCorps service members over three years. Per member, we will inventory more than 1,000 trees and plant more than 160. Per year, we will develop and manage 24 EAB mitigation plans and 5 gravel bed nurseries. Additional outcomes are determined by site partner priorities. Site partners need staffing support to engage in prudent, proactive aspects of tree management. Each member provides strategic assistance in accordance with the specific needs of their site. Our activities will provide generalized capacity support to host sites and direct benefit to Minnesotans throughout the state.

## Activities and Milestones

### Activity 1: Recruitment

**Activity Budget:** \$500,000

**Activity Description:**

We will recruit, train, and deploy 150 service members to host sites across the state. Service members will complete MN Tree Inspector Certification by the end of first month of service.

**Activity Milestones:**

Description	Completion Date
First year – recruit train, and deploy 50 service members	August 31, 2023
Second year – recruit, train, and deploy an additional 50 service members	August 31, 2024
Third year – recruit, train, and deploy an additional 50 service members	August 31, 2025

### Activity 2: Tree Activities

**Activity Budget:** \$500,000

**Activity Description:**

Members will support host sites through tree activities, which include inventorying trees, planting trees, maintaining trees (e.g. pruning, watering, mulching), and marking trees for removal due to pest infestation.

**Activity Milestones:**

Description	Completion Date
8000 trees planted, 50,000 inventoried	July 31, 2024
Total of 16000 trees planted, 100,000 inventoried	July 31, 2025
Total 24,000 trees planted, 150,000 inventoried	June 30, 2026

### Activity 3: Generalized Capacity Support

**Activity Budget:** \$500,000

**Activity Description:**

Members will support the capacity of host sites by engaging in other forestry activities, which have typically included developing and managing EAB plans, gravel bed nurseries, and outreach events. We will work closely with host sites to set additional expectations on the basis of community priorities.

**Activity Milestones:**

Description	Completion Date
24 EAB plans develop and managed	July 31, 2024
5 gravel bed nurseries developed and managed	July 31, 2024
33 outreach events held	July 31, 2024

## Project Partners and Collaborators

Name	Organization	Role	Receiving Funds
City of Andover	City of Andover	Site Partner	No
City of Bloomington	City of Bloomington	Site partner	No
City of Edina	City of Edina	Site partner	No
City of Ely	City of Ely	Site partner	No
City of Hopkins	City of Hopkins	Site partner	No
City of Le Sueur	City of Le Sueur	Site partner	No
City of Lakeville	City of Lakeville	Site partner	No
City of Minneapolis	City of Minneapolis	Site partner	No
City of Minnetonka	City of Minnetonka	Site partner	No
City of Moorhead	City of Moorhead	Site partner	No
City of Plymouth	City of Plymouth	Site partner	No
City of Roseville	City of Roseville	Site partner	No
City of Saint Peter	City of Saint Peter	Site partner	No
City of Winona	City of Winona	Site partner	No
Great River Greening	Great River Greening	Site partner	No
Mississippi Park Connection	Mississippi Park Connection	Site partner	No
Rochester Parks & Recreation	Rochester Parks & Recreation	Site partner	No
Tree Trust	Tree Trust	Site partner	No
Karen Zumach	Tree Trust	Contracted forestry trainer	No
Carlton Soil and Water Conservation District	Carlton Soil and Water Conservation District	Site partner	No
City of Belle Plaine	City of Belle Plaine	Site partner	No
City of Brooklyn Park	City of Brooklyn Park	Site partner	No
City of Burnsville	City of Burnsville	Site partner	No
City of Duluth	City of Duluth	Site partner	No
City of Rochester	City of Rochester	Site partner	No
Great River Greening	Great River Greening	Site partner	No
Minneapolis Downtown	Minneapolis Downtown	Site partner	No

Improvement District	Improvement District		
Chad Giblin	City Forester	Contracted forestry partner	No
Dylan Kelly	Ampact	Project manager	No

## 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?**

Local agencies across the state are working to preserve natural resources so Minnesotans will enjoy active wildlife, clean air, and clear water for generations to come. In recent years, extreme weather has increased the urgency of this work. Bolstering community efforts now offers us the best chance for sustaining and paying for longer-term plans for ecological resiliency. LCCMR funding allows us to leverage powerful, matching funds from the federal government to bring an additional \$3 million dollars to directly support Minnesotans statewide who are engaged in this work. Ongoing efforts will be sustained by federal AmeriCorps funding and community investment.

## Project Manager and Organization Qualifications

**Project Manager Name:** Sharon Delcambre

**Job Title:** Impact and Improvement Evaluator

**Provide description of the project manager’s qualifications to manage the proposed project.**

Sharon earned a PhD in atmospheric and oceanic sciences at the University of Wisconsin-Madison and has more than a decade of experience as an environmental scientist and educator. Her responsibilities include working with the ServeMinnesota portfolio of environmental programs to ensure that they are systematically and regularly refined to improve evidence base and community fit of their program models. Sharon works with program partners to strategically design new programs to maximize impact based on community needs.

**Organization:** ServeMinnesota

**Organization Description:**

ServeMinnesota is a catalyst for social impact and a problem-solver for the state of Minnesota. We merge federal AmeriCorps resources with evidence-based strategies and authentic community expertise to address some of the biggest concerns impacting our communities—rural, suburban, and urban alike. For 20 years, we have worked independently at the intersection of public and private partnerships to research, develop, and refine scalable solutions that align with community priorities in each of the 82 counties we serve. We are able to produce measurable results through a genuine commitment to data-driven innovation and partnerships with researchers, community members, and practitioners. In addition to the direct effects of our programming, our AmeriCorps members are better-prepared after their service term to pursue professional roles in their field, creating a sustainable pipeline for addressing community needs.

This application concerns Community Forestry AmeriCorps; however, there are longstanding examples of our high-impact, strategic approach to programming. Despite small beginnings, two of our initiatives, Reading Corps and Math Corps, are currently the largest AmeriCorps tutoring programs in the nation. We welcome opportunities to talk about that work where it helps to demonstrate our seriousness, diligence, and operational competency.

## Budget Summary

Category / Name	Subcategory or Type	Description	Purpose	Gen. Ineligible	% Benefits	# FTE	Classified Staff?	\$ Amount
Personnel								
							Sub Total	-
Contracts and Services								
							Sub Total	-
Equipment, Tools, and Supplies								
							Sub Total	-
Capital Expenditures								
							Sub Total	-
Acquisitions and Stewardship								
							Sub Total	-
Travel In Minnesota								
							Sub Total	-
Travel Outside Minnesota								
							Sub Total	-
Printing and Publication								
							Sub Total	-
Other Expenses								

		AmeriCorps Member Stipends and Related Expense - \$10,000 per member X 150 members (50 members each year for 3 years)	Includes the member living allowance, training, support and related costs for the members working on this project.					\$1,500,000
							<b>Sub Total</b>	<b>\$1,500,000</b>
							<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>\$1,500,000</b>

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
<b>State</b>				
			<b>State Sub Total</b>	-
<b>Non-State</b>				
Cash	Federal AmeriCorps Funding	Federal AmeriCorps funding to support running an AmeriCorps program, including additional member related expenses beyond the request in this grant. (\$21,600 per member X 50 members X 3 years) Federal AmeriCorps grants require matching funds.	Secured	\$3,240,000
			<b>Non State Sub Total</b>	<b>\$3,240,000</b>
			<b>Funds Total</b>	<b>\$3,240,000</b>

## Attachments

### Required Attachments

#### *Visual Component*

File: [a889d347-78d.pdf](#)

#### *Alternate Text for Visual Component*

Document summarizing focus and scope of Community Forestry programming in Minnesota. Members focus on preserving and increasing the tree canopy throughout the state while becoming the next generation of environmental leaders. Members serve at 32 sites and counting, sites include cities, neighborhood associations, and soil and water conservation districts....

#### *Financial Capacity*

File: [8e63836c-885.pdf](#)

#### *Board Resolution or Letter*

Title	File
Signed board resolution	<a href="#">a7f89aee-4c5.pdf</a>

### Optional Attachments

#### *Support Letter or Other*

Title	File
Support letter from Ashley Peters	<a href="#">25181146-531.pdf</a>
Support letter from Douglas County Park Superintendent	<a href="#">0b45a8b6-234.pdf</a>
Support letter from Carlton SWCD	<a href="#">1fdee169-589.pdf</a>
Support letter from Frogtown Green	<a href="#">c65d01ad-ba3.pdf</a>

## Administrative Use

**Does your project include restoration or acquisition of land rights?**

No

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

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

# Community Forestry AmeriCorps

## Increasing Minnesota's tree canopy



Community Forestry AmeriCorps members focus on preserving and increasing the tree canopy throughout the state while developing the next generation of environmental leaders.

### How we train and support

- Host site skill training, operational support, and professional mentoring
- Create links between service and career pathways in forestry jobs

### What we do

- Tree planting and maintenance
- Tree inventoring
- Gravel bed nursery design, construction, and management
- Volunteer recruitment and training
- Emerald Ash Borer management plan development



### Trees planted

Actual (22 members) **3,616**

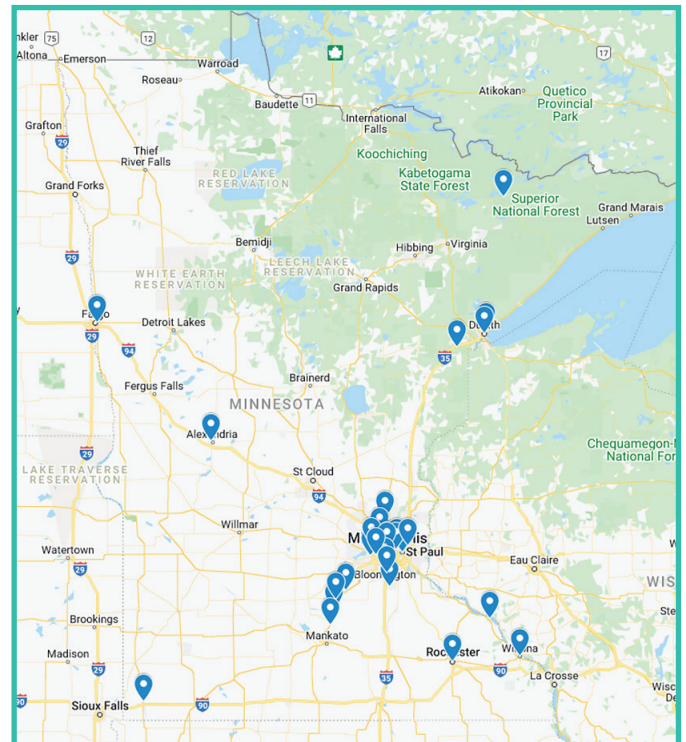
Projected (50 members) **8,219**

### Trees inventoried

Actual (22 members) **22,061**

Projected (50 members) **50,139**

**32 sites and counting including cities, neighborhood associations, soil and water conservation districts, and nonprofits**



The Power of AmeriCorps.  
The Power of You.



ServeMN

ServeMinnesota.org

