



## Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund

### 2026 Request for Proposal

#### General Information

**Proposal ID:** 2026-528

**Proposal Title:** Mahnomen EAB Preparation Project

#### Project Manager Information

**Name:** Taylor Guenther

**Organization:** City of Mahnomen

**Office Telephone:** (218) 935-2573

**Email:** taylor@citymahnomen.com

#### Project Basic Information

**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.

**ENRTF Funds Requested:** \$62,000

**Proposed Project Completion:** July 31, 2026

**LCCMR Funding Category:** Small Projects (G)

**Secondary Category:** Resiliency (A)

#### Project Location

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

Region(s): NW

**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

## Narrative

### **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.

## 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 63 large, unhealthy ash trees from public boulevards. Due to budget constraints, these removals may be phased over the initial 2-3 years of the grant period. City crews will remove smaller ash trees (<12 inches in diameter). A contractor will be secured to handle larger 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.

Removals and replacements will continue in 2028 and 2029 based on available funding, allowing time for root breakdown before replanting. Additionally, Mahanomen has applied for 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

**Activity Milestones:**

Description	Approximate Completion Date
2026 - Obtain Quotes for Tree Removal	July 31, 2026
2026 - Work with Contractor for removals	July 31, 2026
2027 - Begin Planting Replacement Trees	July 31, 2026
2028-2029 - Finish Removals & Replacements as Appropriate	July 31, 2026

## 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

## 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.

## Project Manager and Organization Qualifications

**Project Manager Name:** Taylor Guenther

**Job Title:** City Administrator

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

Manage and oversee the operation of the City and Public Works crew assigned to this work.

**Organization:** City of Mahnomen

**Organization Description:**

The City of Mahnomen is a state statutory city located in Northwestern Minnesota on the exterior boundary of the White Earth Reservation. Our population is 1,240 people.

## Budget Summary

Category / Name	Subcategory or Type	Description	Purpose	Gen. Ineligible	% Benefits	# FTE	Classified Staff?	\$ Amount
<b>Personnel</b>								
							Sub Total	-
<b>Contracts and Services</b>								
TBD	Service Contract	Tree removal, Clean-up, and Stump grinding				0.9		\$49,000
							Sub Total	\$49,000
<b>Equipment, Tools, and Supplies</b>								
	Tools and Supplies	51 Replacement Boulevard Trees	Replacement trees for removed Ash Trees					\$10,500
	Tools and Supplies	Purchase of 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
<b>Capital Expenditures</b>								
							Sub Total	-
<b>Acquisitions and Stewardship</b>								
							Sub Total	-
<b>Travel In Minnesota</b>								
							Sub Total	-
<b>Travel Outside Minnesota</b>								

							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				
			State Sub Total	-
Non-State				
In-Kind	City Contribution	City staff hours for tree Maintenace/watering	Secured	\$7,985
			Non State Sub Total	\$7,985
			Funds Total	\$7,985

Total Project Cost: \$69,985

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	<a href="#">5f998c7e-e4f.pdf</a>
2023 City Audit Report	<a href="#">3d89373d-79c.pdf</a>

#### *Board Resolution or Letter*

Title	File
Support Letter	<a href="#">ec30a04a-0fe.pdf</a>

### Supplemental Attachments

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

Title	File
2023 EAB Management Plan	<a href="#">ace8e3ff-bd1.pdf</a>

## Administrative Use

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

No

**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 proposal:**

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