

# REQUEST FOR COUNCIL ACTION

*Agenda Section:* **New Business**

*Originating Department:*

*Date*

*No:* **5**

**Public Works**

**06/06/22**

*Item:* **DNR EAB Urban Forest Grant Acceptance**

*No.* **5.3**

## SUMMARY OF REQUESTED ACTION:

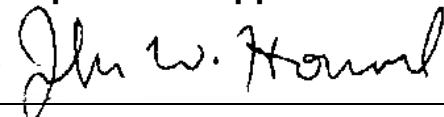
The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR) awarded the City of Winona a grant to fully re-start municipal ash tree treatment through 2025. This would allow most existing ash trees in good condition on City property to remain protected from the emerald ash borer (EAB) through at least 2026. Maintaining this ash tree canopy will provide stormwater, cooling, and air quality benefits and buy time for new long term treatment options to become viable as well as for replacement trees to grow.

The project plan is to treat approximately 390 trees this year followed by about 195 in 2023. In 2024, the remaining of the healthy 390 trees would get another treatment, and in 2025, the 195 would be treated yet again. These figures are based on the most recent tree inventory – the 195 being trees the Friends of Winona Parks treated in 2021 and the 390 being nearly every other healthy ash tree still alive that was treated in 2018.

Total funding from the DNR would be \$124,775. No match is required, but the City is accounting for staff time to administer the grant, direct the treatment contractor and plant a few replacement trees for ash that do not survive. The City will also be updating the existing EAB management plan, which was created over 10 years ago. Staff estimates about 125 hours total over the course of the grant, with much of that being provided by Community Forestry Corps AmeriCorps members in 2022 and 2023. In the long term, the grant actually saves significant staff time over the next four years because the tree crew will not need to do as many tree removals.

If Council concurs with staff's recommendation to proceed with the grant, a motion for the Mayor and Clerk to execute the agreement electronically would be in order.

**Department Approval:**



**City Manager Approval:**

