



PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT

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Memorandum

To: Community Development Committee

From: Caroline Gregerson, Dan Trussoni

Date: March 30, 2021

Re: Approval of \$25,000 in CDBG 2021 EN Funds for Tree Inventory Plan

A community priority that was identified in the 5-year consolidated plan was continuing to improve the aesthetics of historical neighborhood, one strategy being to continue to improve the tree canopy and tree coverage in the City of La Crosse. In other neighborhood plans, such as the Joint Campus Plan for the Powell Poage Hamilton Neighborhood, improving the tree canopy has also been specifically identified. The recent Emerald Ash Borer disease destroyed much of the tree canopy in La Crosse (6500 trees had to be taken down). A commitment was made by the City to replace these trees but a lack of knowledge around the species and conditions and diversity of existing trees impedes the ability to sustainably replace these trees.

The Parks and Recreation Department has obtained a \$25,000 DNR grant that requires a 100% match to conduct a tree inventory to . The tree inventory will help identify and map the trees and species the City currently has, as well as identify a comprehensive strategy for improving the tree coverage, replace and tree canopy in a sustainable way. The current cost of the project is estimated to be \$75,000.

The following budget is proposed:

\$25,000 CDBG Funds

\$25,000 DNR Grant

\$25,000 Other City Funds (requires future Council approval)

Another benefit of using our CDBG funds to support this project, is that will potentially free up additional City funds to support tree planting that would have otherwise be needed to provide matching funds to the grant. If there is not future Council approval, the project could still proceed with a reduced budget of \$50,000.