

Myrick Park Arboretum Plan – Updated 4/30/24.

Mission Statement:

The mission of the Myrick Park Arboretum is to display the rich biodiversity of the Coulee Region and to promote and highlight the importance of trees to our community.

Objectives:

Myrick Park is a prominent public space for the city of La Crosse. It is well visited by visitors and community members for its many amenities including an area called the “tree walk”. The tree walk is comprised of over 30 different native trees, ranging in age from about 25 to 10 years old, all of which are labelled. This past fall and winter, the City’s forestry department performed thorough structure pruning to many of the featured trees. Becoming an arboretum would bring newfound interest to the “tree walk” and solidify it as a place of learning and public interest. The Park is located directly across from the University of Wisconsin at La Crosse, and also houses a nature learning nonprofit called “The Nature Place”. An arboretum would be a benefit for both entities as a place of education, and would attract all of the nature lovers that frequent the trails of the nearby Hixon Forest. Some of our goals to support the Arboretum are as follows:

- Continuously add new native species and continue to encourage the public to donate memorial trees.
- Evaluate and prune trees in the arboretum annually; conduct structure, clearance, reduction, and dead wood pruning as necessary.
- Arboretum is used to host events such as Arbor Day, pruning seminars, and planting demonstrations.
- Provide the public with a place to experience, walk, and relax.
- Use as an example to show public the ecological, social, and infrastructural benefits of healthy trees.
- Utilize space as an area to teach and demonstrate proper pruning to other municipal workers that may be dealing with trees.
- Update the signage on specimens to be as clear and accurate as possible.

Management:

The creation of the Arboretum will be overseen and governed by the City of La Crosse Parks Board. Maintenance, planting, and upkeep of the arboretum will be delegated to the City’s Forestry Department. The department has three full-time arborists (two certified) on staff. The arborist’s perform tree pruning in accordance to ISA and ANSI 300 standards using a bucket truck and rope and saddle climbing techniques. Maintenance will be performed on an ongoing, as-needed basis, with annual pruning efforts during the dormant season. Species selection for memorial and donated trees will be handled by the Forestry Department, as will planting. Any volunteer based activities will be overseen by the Parks/Forestry department.

Documentation of Trees:

In 2021, a company called Plan It Geo performed a tree inventory of all public trees in the City. The arboretum trees are included in this survey and are mapped and displayed on an online database that is viewable to the Public. The Parks Department will actively update and record any changes to arboretum trees on the database.

Master Plan:

The Parks Dept. and Park Board is responsible for providing and developing a short-term and long-term plan for the arboretum. The plan may be adjusted as needed.