

Urban Tree Program – City Funding

Funding for the City of Madison’s Urban Tree Program includes a variety of sources to fund a complex operation to maintain and grow the city’s urban tree canopy. The adopted City of Madison Capital Budget includes program funding for new tree plantings or replacement tree plantings as follows:

- Assessable Trees - provides funds for the planting of terrace trees along new streets, with the costs assessed directly to the property owners;
- Emerald Ash Borer Mitigation - funds the recommendations of the EAB Task Force to proactively remove and replace ash trees throughout the city (funded in Parks and Streets capital budgets);
- Street Tree Replacements - funds the replacement of street trees within the City in conjunction with EAB efforts; and
- Park Land Improvements – includes minor funding for park landscaping for tree planting in parks in conjunction with EAB efforts.

Through this capital program funding, the City has contracted to grow and/or purchased for planting nearly 16,000 trees since 2016. As part of the City’s street tree program alone, a total of 8,630 street ash trees have been removed since the EAB plan was adopted; approximately 1,800 street ash trees remain to be removed in 2019-2020. Approximately 11,000 ash trees are being treated on public property.

The adopted City of Madison Operating Budget includes funding from the General Fund and the Urban Forestry Special Charge to support the city’s urban forest. This funding supports tree plantings, tree maintenance including pruning (young trees require more frequent pruning to establish healthy growth) and tree removals when necessary, including stump grubbing and restoration of the site as well as processing of the wood material.

The Urban Forestry Special Charge was created in 2015 to allow the City to recover its costs in performing the services associated with the City’s urban tree program. The revenue target for the Urban Forestry Special Charge (UFSC) established as part of the city’s operating budget process in 2019 is shown under the adopted Streets Division 2019 Operating Budget (\$782,500 for stump grubbing activities), the adopted Parks Division 2019 Operating Budget (\$3,610,320 for forestry services) and the costs associated with administering the Urban Forestry Special Charge (total revenue target in the 2019 Operating Budget of \$4,415,840).

