



Legislation Text

File #: 22-0649R, **Version:** 1

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING ACCEPTANCE OF A GRANT FROM THE MINNESOTA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES PROTECT COMMUNITY FORESTS EAB GRANT FOR \$99,081 TO REMOVE AND REPLACE DISEASED BOULEVARD ASH TREES.

CITY PROPOSAL:

WHEREAS, the City of Duluth authorized a EAB management plan in 2016; and

WHEREAS, the state is in need of implementing activities to suppress EAB populations in the City of Duluth in order to slow the spread of EAB from the city into surrounding areas;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the proper city officials are hereby authorized to accept funds from the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR) through the Protect Community Forests by Managing Ash for EAB Grant Program in the amount of up to \$99,081 such funds to be used to reimburse costs associated with the activities related to the removal of EAB infested trees and the replacement of removed ash trees.

FURTHER RESOLVED, the city of Duluth has the legal authority to accept the money and financial, technical, and managerial capacity to ensure proper planning and maintenance of the project. A 25% match is required and will be met with funds from Parks Maintenance.

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE: This resolution authorizes acceptance of a grant from the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources Protect Community Forests Program in the amount of \$99,081 for the removal and replacement of select ash trees consistent with the 2016 City Council approved Emerald Ash Borer Management Plan.

The City's EAB Management Plan calls for: 1. Removal of non-infected ash under 12 inches in diameter and all infected trees. 2. Replacement of those trees on a one-to-one basis. 3. Treatment of non-infected healthy ash greater than 12 inches in diameter. To date, Duluth has removed 1,521 ash and planted 1,500 replacement trees of various species. Approximately 1400 remain to be removed and replaced.

The focus of this grant application is timely removal of more than 500 large infected ash trees that are over 16" in diameter. Most of these ash trees are located on boulevards in residential neighborhoods. The propensity of infected ash to eventually shatter and collapse with limited warning makes large ash trees a growing hazard to people and property.