

Natural Resources Advisory Group
10.16.2024 Agenda (draft)
3:15 pm. City Hall Conference Room

Present:

I Approval of Minutes from 8/28/2024

II. Old Business

A . Review of the Conservation Partners Legacy Grant project -update

1. Erik Thomsen from Ku-Le Region Forestry will be in attendance at the meeting to review the Forest Habitat Restoration project at Stoney Point.

B. Trail Maintenance Guidelines and planning for next year

C. Dog park status

D. SHIP grant park entrance signs status

E . Prairie Restoration signs and seeding status

F Tree Ordinance

G. Other

III. New Business

A. Introduction of the Green Corp member, Mary Gegen

B. Boulevard Tree Care flyer

C. Discussion of possible future projects for CPL Expedited Funding. See attached with ECP application and funding schedule

D. Other

IV. Next Meeting November

Natural Resource Advisory Group
8.28.2024 Minutes
3:15 pm. City Hall Conference Room

Present: Betsy Knowles, Marge Loch-Wouters, Jason Ludwigson, Ruth Nissen, Randy Urich, Bill Waller

Guest: John Fuchshel

- I. Minutes from 7/10/2024 approved.
- II. Old Business
 - A. Frank J. Kistler Memorial Park pollinator gardens. Public feedback has been positive. The QR code linking to the flower identification guide has been fixed.
 - B. Blue Lake Canoe/Kayak Project status. The concrete is poured and steps made and a handrail will be added. The bank will be seeded with native pollinator mix.
 - C. Update on the Conservation Partners Legacy Grant. RFPs have been received and it is recommended for approval at the September 23 council meeting. Work could start late in fall. There are additional rounds of CPL grants.
 1. Outreach efforts:
 - Signs are up in Vetsch and Stoney Point with short explanation and QR code to link to more detailed information.
 - Table at Farmers Market, Sept 17 4:30 - 6:30 pm. Jason will staff with any available NRAG members.
 - Betsy will explore/write a piece for the HCN.
 - Plan to contact TV stations after activity starts.
 - D. Trail Maintenance Guidelines. Previous and proposed guidelines and timeline were discussed, as well as work to complete this fall. Guidelines will be revised for review next meeting.
 - E. Dog park status. Park has been leveled and seeded, and fencing is anticipated the week of September 9. Working with MN DOT on landscaping the slope up to the bridge.

- F. Trail sign installation in Eagle Bluff Park. Current plan is to install signs the week of September 30, with trees planted at the same time.
- G. SHIP grant for park entrance signs. Drafts of park entrance signs will be reviewed by the Park Commission. The grant is \$5000 and signs will have the new city logo.
- H. John Fuchsel (Quail Forever) memorial planting. John provided historical background on this idea, and options were discussed for areas outside the city.
- I. Prairie Restoration signs and seeding. Some additional seedings are still planned for this year.
- J. Conservation Easement - Eagle Bluff Park - Minnesota Land Trust. The deed transfer has been completed. This generates an opportunity to review the guidelines of the existing conservation easement.

III. New Business

- A. Planning for trail maintenance next year. Ideas were discussed as a part of the trail maintenance guidelines, including using each meeting to identify trail needs and adding work day(s) in July.
- B. GreenCorps member introduction. Mary Gegen will be our MN GreenCorps member. Her background is in biology and environmental studies. She begins with the city on September 23 and Randy will be her mentor. Her work will focus on stormwater/water quality issues, and forestry.
- C. The La Crosse Area Waters celebrated the work done in La Crescent at an event at John S Harris park.
- D. The city is exploring making a living snow fence to replace the snow fence that has been erected in Old Hickory.

IV. Next meeting: Wednesday October 16, 3:15 pm

Respectively submitted, Betsy Knowles

Updated 10/08/2024

ORDINANCE NO. XXX
AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF LA CRESCENT
REGULATING TREE CARE IN THE CITY OF LA
CRESCENT, MINNESOTA

The City Council of the City of La Crescent, Houston County, Minnesota, hereby ordains:

SECTION I. FINDINGS. The La Crescent City Council hereby finds and declares as follows:

1. By taking in carbon dioxide and releasing oxygen, trees are important to improving air quality.
2. The planting of trees results in less runoff and erosion, which improves water quality. Trees recharge the ground water supply.
3. Trees planted in and around buildings can reduce heating and cooling costs. Trees also cool the city by breaking up urban "heat islands" and releasing water vapor into the air through their leaves.

SECTION II. PURPOSE. La Crescent is fortunate to have a robust inventory of mature trees that form an integral part of the unique character and history of the city, and that contribute to the long-term aesthetic, environmental, and economic well-being of the city. The goal of this ordinance is to preserve La Crescent's high valued trees, while allowing reasonable development to take place and not interfering with how existing property owners use their property. The purpose of the ordinance is to:

Establish, maintain, and grow La Crescent's tree canopy cover by protecting mature trees throughout the city; ensuring maximum tree cover.

Maintain trees in a healthy condition through good cultural practices.

Promote conservation of tree resources.

Establish and maintain species diversity.

Improve the quality of life for all stakeholders, including city residents, visitors and wildlife.

Protect the environment by the filtering of air and soil pollutants, increasing oxygen levels and reducing CO₂; preventing and reducing erosion and stormwater by stabilizing soils; reducing heat convection; decreasing wind speeds; reducing noise pollution and decreasing the urban heat island effect.

Enhance energy conservation through natural insulation and shading.

Increase and maintain property values.

SECTION III. DEFINITIONS.

As used in the Article, the following words and phrases shall have the meanings indicated:

Damage – any injury to or destruction of a tree, including but not limited to: uprooting; severance of all or part of the root system or main trunk; storage of material on or compaction of surrounding soil; a substantial change in the natural grade above a root system or around a trunk; surrounding the tree with impervious paving materials; or any trauma caused by accident or collision.

Nuisance – any tree, or limb thereof, that has an infectious disease or insect; is dead or dying; obstructs the view of traffic signs or the free passage of pedestrians or vehicles; or threatens public health, safety, and welfare.

Boulevard – the area along a public street between the curb and the sidewalk; or if there is no curb or sidewalk, the unpaved portion of the area between the street right-of-way line and the paved portion of the street or alley.

Public property – all grounds and rights-of-way (ROWS) owned or maintained by the City.

Public tree – any tree or woody vegetation on city-owned or city-maintained property or rights-of-way.

Top or Topping – the non-standard practice of cutting back of limbs to stubs within a tree’s crown to such a degree so as to remove the normal canopy and disfigure the tree.

SECTION IV. AUTHORITY AND POWER.

a. Delegation of authority and responsibility. The Public Works Director, in consultation with the Natural Resources Advisory Group, and/or their designee, hereinafter referred to as the “Director”, shall have full authority to plant, prune, maintain and remove trees and woody plants growing in or upon all municipal streets, municipal rights-of-ways, city parks, and other public property. This shall include the removal of trees that may threaten electrical, telephone, gas, or any municipal water or sewer line, or any tree that is affected by fungus, insect, or other pest disease.

b. Coordination among city departments. All city departments will coordinate as necessary with the Director and will provide services as required to ensure compliance with this Ordinance as it relates to streets, alleys, rights-of-way, drainage, easements, and other public properties not under direct jurisdiction of the Director.

c. Interference. No person shall hinder, prevent, delay, or interfere with the Director or his agents while engaged in carrying out the execution or enforcement of this Ordinance.

SECTION V. TREE ADVISORY BOARD.

The City Council hereby creates a “Tree Advisory Board,” hereinafter referred to as the “Board.”

a. Duties. The Natural Resources Advisory Group shall constitute the “Tree Advisory Board”. The board shall act in an advisory capacity to the Director and shall:

1. Coordinate and promote Arbor Day activities;
2. Review and update a five-year plan to plant and maintain trees on city property;
3. Support public awareness and education programs relating to trees;
4. Review city department concerns relating to tree care;
5. Submit an annual report of its activities to the city council;
6. Assist with the annual application to renew the Tree City USA designation;
 7. Recommend a list of tree species for planting on city property, and a list of prohibited

species; and
8. Other duties that may be assigned by City Council.

b. Membership. The Board shall consist of members of the Natural Resource Advisory Group, appointed by the City Council. Members of the Board will serve without compensation.

c. Officers. The Board shall annually select one of the members to serve as chair, may appoint a second member to serve as vice-chair, and may appoint a third member to serve as secretary.

d. Meetings. The Board shall meet a minimum of four times each year. All meetings shall be open to the public. The Board chair may schedule additional meetings as needed.

SECTION VI. TREE CARE AND PLANTING STANDARDS.

a. Standards. All planting and maintenance of public trees shall conform to the American National Standards Institute (ANSI) A-300 "Standards for Tree Care Operations" and shall follow all tree care Best Management Practices (BMPs) published by the International Society of Arboriculture.

b. Requirements of franchise utility companies: The maintenance of public trees for utility clearance shall conform to all applicable utility industry standards.

c. Species list. The Director shall maintain an official list of desirable tree species for planting on public property in three size classes: Small (approx. 25 feet or less in height at maturity), Medium (25-40 feet at maturity) and Large (greater than 40 feet at maturity). Trees from this approved list may be planted without special permission; other species may be planted with written approval from the Director.

The official tree species list for La Crescent can be found in Appendix A.

d. No property owner shall plant a conifer tree in the boulevard.

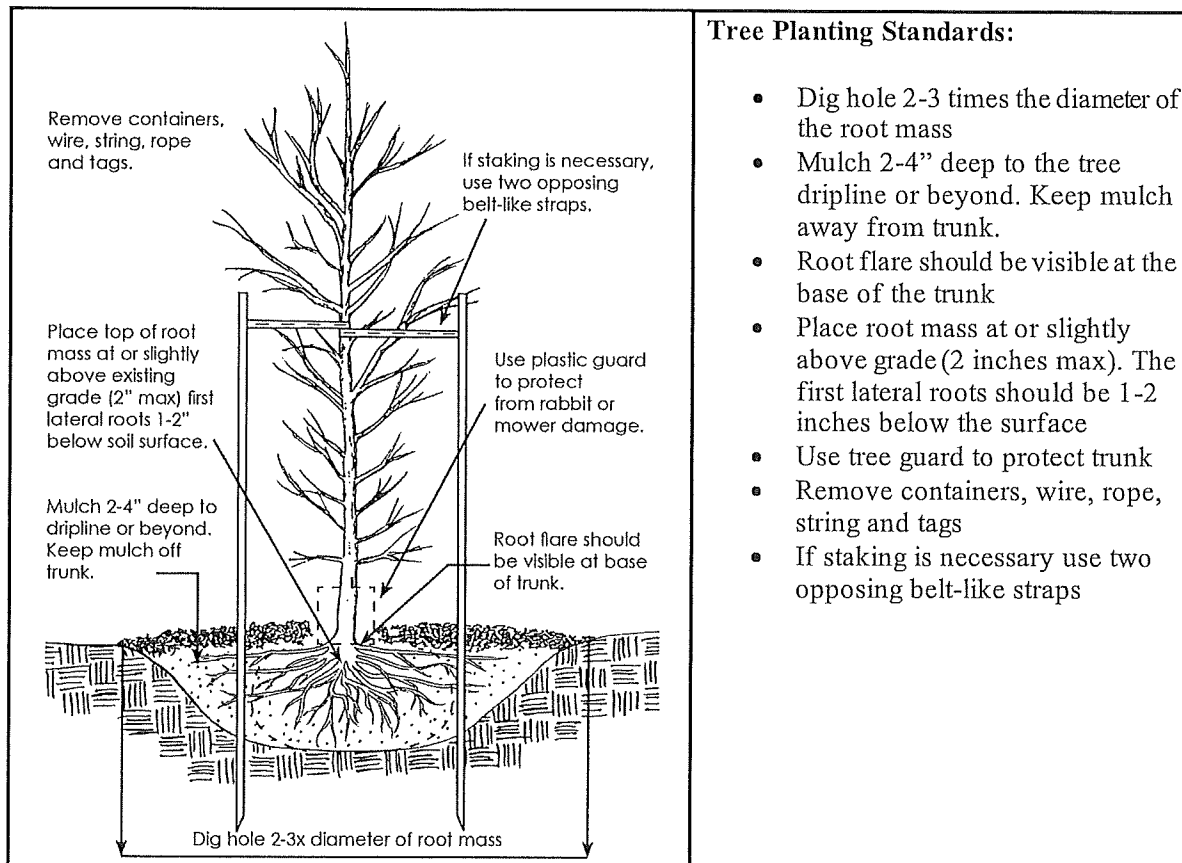
e. Planting distances. The Director shall develop and maintain an official set of spacing requirements for the planting of trees on public property.

- No tree may be planted within the visibility triangle of a street intersection.
- Trees shall not be planted closer than: 25' from the curb line of an intersection, 25' from adjacent trees, or 25' from street lights.
- If a narrower-growing species of tree is selected, the distance may be reduced to 20' or more from adjacent trees. This is determined by the species of tree selected and the species of adjacent trees.
- Trees should be planted at least:
 - 20' from stop or yield signs.
 - 10' from fire hydrants and directional traffic signs.
 - 5' from alley margins, driveways, underground utilities, and utility poles.
 - 2' from property lines.

f. Planting trees under electric utility lines. Only trees listed as small trees on the official city tree species list may be planted under or within 15 lateral feet of any overhead utility wire.

g. Newly planted trees shall be watered regularly by the property owner for the first two to three years. During the summer dry season (roughly June to October), deep-root watering to a depth of 30" is recommended. Begin with 15 gallons of water per tree per week, and adjust as needed. During the remaining months of the year, monitor the root zone for dryness and water as needed.

h. Newly planted trees shall be mulched. Do not pile mulch up around the trunk of the tree. This creates an environment which can lead to trunk decay.



i. All stumps of boulevard trees shall be removed by the abutting property owner below the surface of the ground so that the top of the stump shall not project above the surface of the ground.

SECTION VII. PROHIBITION AGAINST HARMING PUBLIC TREES.

a. A property owner shall obtain written permission for the removal of a tree on public property from the Director.

b. It shall be unlawful for any person, firm, or corporation to attach any cable, wire, sign, or any other object to any boulevard, park, or public tree, unless for the expressed purpose of staking or guying tree.

c. It shall be unlawful as a normal practice for any person, firm, or city department to top any Boulevard Tree, Park Tree, or other tree on public property. Trees severely damaged by storms or other causes, or certain trees under utility wires or other obstructions where other pruning practices are impractical may be exempted from this ordinance at the determination of the Director.

e. Any person, firm, corporation, or city department performing construction near any public tree(s) shall consult with the Director and shall employ appropriate measures to protect the tree(s), according to procedures contained in the Best Management Practices (BMPs) for "Managing Trees During Construction" published by the International Society of Arboriculture.

f. Each violation of this section as determined and notified by the Director shall constitute a separate violation, punishable by fines and penalties under Section 11, in addition to mitigation values placed on the tree(s) removed or damaged in violation of this section.

SECTION VIII. BOULEVARD TREES AND ADJACENT OWNER RESPONSIBILITY.

a. The owner of land adjacent to any city street or highway, when acting within the provisions of this Ordinance, may plant and maintain trees in the adjacent boulevard area.

b. Trees planted in the boulevard should be selected from the official species list for la Crescent. Trees in the boulevard should be maintained (mulched, watered, pruned, etc.) by the abutting property owner r.

c. If the abutting property owner wishes to remove a boulevard tree they should consult with the Director.

d. No property owner shall allow a tree, or other plant growing on his or her property to obstruct or interfere with pedestrians or the view of drivers, thereby creating a hazard. If an obstruction persists, the Director, or staff under the direction of the Director, shall notify the property owner to prune or remove the tree. If the owner fails to comply with the notice, the City may undertake the necessary work and charge the cost to the property owner.

e. Where curb and sidewalks now exist, all trees shall be planted on the centerline between the curb and sidewalk edge line.

SECTION IX. NUISANCE TREES.

a. Any tree, or limb thereof, on private property determined by the Director to have contracted a lethal, communicable disease or insect; to be dead or dying; to obstruct the view of traffic signs or the free passage of pedestrians or vehicles; or that threatens public health, safety, and welfare is declared a nuisance and the city may require its treatment or removal.

SECTION X. VIOLATIONS AND PENALTY.

Any person, firm or corporation violating any provision of this Ordinance shall be deemed guilty of a misdemeanor and shall be subject to a fine not to exceed five hundred dollars (\$500.00) for each offense.

SECTION XI. APPEALS.

Appeals to decisions by the Director or the Tree Advisory Board, or to penalties imposed after violations of this ordinance, shall be heard by City Council.

SECTION XII. SAVINGS AND REPEAL.

All ordinances or parts of ordinances in conflict with this Ordinance are repealed to the extent of such conflict.

Severability. Should any word, sentence, clause, paragraph, or provision of this Ordinance be held to be invalid or unconstitutional the remaining provisions of this Ordinance shall remain in full force and effect.

SECTION XIII. PUBLIC TREE CARE

The city shall have the right to plant, prune, maintain and remove trees, plants and shrubs within the lines of all streets, alleys, avenues, lanes, squares and public grounds, as may be necessary to ensure public safety or to preserve or enhance the symmetry and beauty of such public grounds. The Tree Advisory Board may remove or order to be removed, any tree or part thereof which is in an unsafe condition or which by reason of its nature is injurious to sewers, electric power lines, gas lines, water lines, or other public improvements, or is affected with any injurious fungus, insect or other pest. This Section does not prohibit the planting of Boulevard Trees by adjacent property owners providing that the selection and location of said trees is in accordance with Sections 6 through 10 of this ordinance.

SECTION XIV. PRUNING, CORNER CLEARANCE

Every owner of any tree overhanging any street or right-of-way within the City shall prune the branches so that such branches shall not obstruct the light from any street lamp or obstruct the view of any street intersection and so that there shall be a clear space of thirteen feet, six inches (13' 6") above the surface of the street and eight feet (8') above the surface of the sidewalk. Said owners shall remove all dead, diseased or dangerous trees, or broken or decayed limbs which constitute a menace to the safety of the public. The City shall have the right to prune any tree or shrub on private property when it interferes with the proper spread of light along the street from a street light or interferes with visibility of any traffic control device or sign.

ASK City Attorney CAN THIS PROVISION BE INCLUDED

SECTION XV. DEAD OR DISEASED TREE REMOVAL ON PRIVATE PROPERTY

The city shall have the right to cause the removal of any dead or diseased trees on private property within the city, when such trees constitute a hazard to life and property, or harbor insects or disease which constitute a potential threat to other trees within the city. The Director will notify in writing the owners of such trees. Removal shall be done by said owners at their own expense within sixty days after the date of service of notice. In the event of failure of owners to comply with such provisions, the City shall have the authority to remove such trees and charge the cost of removal on the owner's property tax notice.

SECTION XVI. INTERFERENCE WITH CITY TREE BOARD

It shall be unlawful for any person to prevent, delay or interfere with the Public Works Director, or any of the agents (city staff), while engaging in and about the planting, cultivating, mulching, pruning, spraying, or removing of any Boulevard Trees, Park Trees, or trees on private grounds, as authorized in this ordinance.

PASSED AND ENACTED this ____ day of _____, 2024.

Mayor

ATTEST:

City Administrator

DRAFT

Common Name	Cultivar	Mature Height	Mature Spread	Canopy Form	Boulevard Size	Distance to Curb and Sidewalk	Minimum Planting Distance to Curb	Distribution Powerline	Native to Minnesota	Exposure	Soil Texture Suitability	Drought Tolerance	Growth rate	Hardiness Zone	Salt (spray/wall)	Pests and Disease Issues	Fall Color	Notes
Small Trees																		
Hawthorn	Thornless	20-30 ft	25-35 ft	Round	5-6 ft	5 ft	8-10 ft	Yes	Yes	Full sun					Moderately tolerant	Fireblight	Orange, red	White flowers in spring. Leaves are dark green. Bark is smooth. Best for a protected site sheltered from direct SW sun which can "bark" it out of winter dormancy and cause dieback.
Redbud	MN Strain	25-30 ft	25-35 ft	Round	5-6 ft	5 ft	8-10 ft	Yes	No	Full sun to partial shade					Intolerant	Borer	Yellow	Do not plant close to native woodlands. Seeds are borderline invasive.
Japanese Tree Lilac	Many Silk, Balisee (Snowdances), Golden Eclipse, Ivory Pillar	20-30 ft	15-25 ft	Oval	5 ft	2.5-5 ft depending on cultivar	8-10 ft	Yes	No	Full sun					Moderately tolerant	Bacterial leaf blight	Unremarkable	Clump forms only suited for wide boulevard or park setting with lower clearance requirements.
Viburnum, nannyberry																		
Serviceberry, Allegheny	Many, Minnesota, David White, Pacific, Red Jewel, Royal (Baldwins), Select A (Frederick), Jamin (Haines), Suzanam (Sugar Thyme)	15-25 ft	15-25 ft	Oval/round	5 ft	5 ft	8-10 ft	Yes	Yes	Full sun to partial shade					Intolerant	No serious issues	Yellow, gold	
Blue Beech		25-40 ft	15-25 ft	Oval	5-6 ft	2.5-4 ft	5 ft	No	Yes	Full sun to shade					Moderately tolerant	No serious issues	Orange, red	Also called American Hornbeam, slower growing.
Pin Cherry																		
Medium Trees																		
American Linden																		
Zier, Ostrya																		
Littlear Linden	Snowy	60-70 ft	30-40 ft	Pyramid	6-8 ft	4 ft	5 ft	No	No	Full sun					Moderately tolerant	Linden borer, Japanese beetles	Yellow	Ensure tree is planted with firm order root at grade to avoid stem girdling roots (SGR); fragrant flowers. Sentry less susceptible to Japanese beetles.
Juneweed		25-40 ft	15-40 ft	Pyramid	5-6 ft	2.5-4 ft	10 ft	No	Yes	Full sun to shade					Moderately tolerant (soil)	No serious issues	Yellow, brown	Slower growing, durable wood, may do best in a park setting or in a boulevard along a road without alleys that is 2-3 mph.
Alder	Prairie Horizon	25-40 ft	20-30 ft	Pyramid	5-6 ft	2.5-4 ft	5 ft	No	No	Full sun to full shade					Intolerant	No serious issues	Gold	Can withstand tough sites, improves soil by fixing nitrogen.
Cherry																		
Yellowwood		30-50 ft	40-55 ft	Round	5-6 ft	2.5-4 ft	5 ft	No	No	Full sun					Moderately tolerant	Venturiella wilt and borers	Yellow	Shows white flowers in spring, branches susceptible to less storm damage, best in a wide median or park.
Large Trees																		
Swamp White Oak		50-60 ft	50-60 ft	Pyramidal/Oval	6-8 ft	4 ft	5 ft	No	Yes	Full sun					Moderately tolerant (soil)	No serious issues	Unremarkable	Can get chlorotic (yellow leaves), can do well in most soils.
White Oak		80-100 ft	80-100 ft	Oval/round	6-8 ft	4 ft	5 ft	No	Yes	Full sun					Moderately tolerant	Oak wilt, two-lined chestnut borer	Red, purple	Plant oak at least 65 ft apart to avoid root grafting (related to oak wilt disease).
Northern Red Oak		60-75 ft	60-75 ft	Pyramidal	6-8 ft	4 ft	5 ft	No	Yes	Full sun to partial shade					Moderately tolerant	Oak wilt, two-lined chestnut borer	Red, purple	Plant oaks at least 65 ft apart to avoid root grafting (related to oak wilt disease).
Northern Pin Oak	Balchies (Habitats), Siles	40-75 ft	40-75 ft	Pyramidal	6-8 ft	4 ft	5 ft	No	Yes	Full sun					Tolerant	Oak wilt, two-lined chestnut borer	Red	Lined cultivars are male only (no fruit), show growing in early years, can do well in tough urban conditions.
Common Haselberry	Skyline, Street Keeper, Imperial	40-60 ft	40-50 ft	Oval	6-8 ft	4 ft	5 ft	No	Yes	Full sun to partial shade					Moderately tolerant	No serious issues	Yellow	Does well in tough urban conditions.
Honeylocust (Inornata)		30-70 ft	30-70 ft	Round	5-6 ft	2.5-4 ft	5 ft	No	Yes	Full sun					Tolerant	No serious issues	Yellow	Plant oaks at least 65 ft apart to avoid root grafting (related to oak wilt disease).
Hybrid Elm		50-70 ft	30-60 ft	Varies depending on cultivar	6-8 ft	4 ft	5 ft	No	Varies	Full sun to partial shade					Moderately tolerant	Dutch elm disease	Yellow	Best in a wide median or park due to fruit (not drop).
Shagbark Hickory		60-80 ft	30-50 ft	Round	20 ft	10 ft	5 ft	No	Yes	Full sun to partial shade					Intolerant	No serious issues	Yellow	Ensure trees are planted with firm order root at grade to avoid stem girdling roots (SGR); do not mass plant due to Japanese beetle issues.
American Basswood	Boulevard, Frontyard	60-80 ft	30-60 ft	Oval	6-8 ft	4 ft	5 ft	No	Yes	Full sun to partial shade					Moderately tolerant (soil), intolerant (soil)	Linden borer, Japanese beetles	Yellow, brown	Plant oaks at least 65 ft apart to avoid root grafting (related to oak wilt disease).
Black Oak		50-60 ft	40-70 ft	Oval/round	6-8 ft	4 ft	5 ft	No	Yes	Full sun to partial shade					Moderately tolerant	Oak wilt, two-lined chestnut borer	Yellow, red	Plant oaks at least 65 ft apart to avoid root grafting (related to oak wilt disease).
Bur Oak		70-80 ft	70-80 ft	Oval/round	6-8 ft	4 ft	5 ft	No	Yes	Full sun					Moderately tolerant (soil)	Oak wilt, two-lined chestnut borer	Yellow, brown	Plant oaks at least 65 ft apart to avoid root grafting (related to oak wilt disease).
Sugar Maple		40-70 ft	30-50 ft	Round	6-8 ft	4 ft	5 ft	No	Yes	Full sun					Moderately tolerant	Oak wilt, two-lined chestnut borer	Orange, yellow, red	Lined cultivars are seedless, others may produce a poor if female, does well in tough urban conditions.
Kentucky Coffeetree	Espresso, Tree North, Mac (Branched), Decal	60-75 ft	40-50 ft	Oval	6-8 ft	2.5-4 ft	5 ft	No	Yes	Full sun					Tolerant	No serious issues	Yellow	

III A.

MEMORANDUM

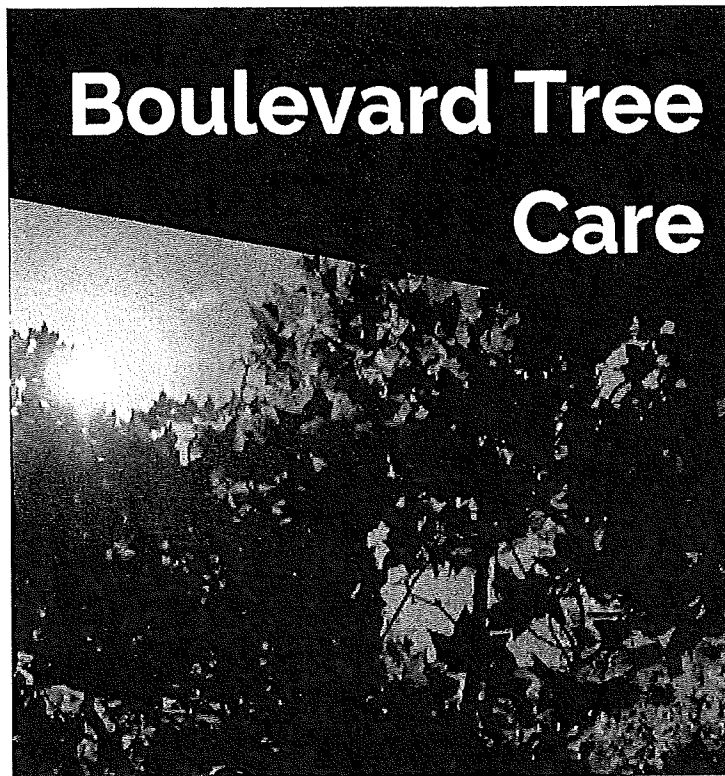
TO: Honorable Mayor and City Council Members

FROM: Jason Ludwigson, Sustainability Coordinator

DATE: October 2nd, 2024

SUBJECT: Mary Gegen Minnesota Green Corps Member La Crescent

The City of La Crescent was selected to participate in the MN Green Corps program for 2024 and 2025. The MPCA selected Mary Gegen to serve for 11 months with the City of La Crescent. Mary started her service with the city on September 23rd. The focus of Mary's work with the city during her service will be on stormwater and forestry. In her first few weeks with the city, she has been working with the certified Tree Stewards to prune trees on city properties, has developed a boulevard tree species list using best practices from the Minnesota Local Road Research Board, created a door hanger to provide to residents who receive a boulevard tree, and has led the seeding of additional native prairies as a part of the HELP grant awarded to the city. We are excited to have Mary serving with the city. Mary and I will be in attendance at the meeting to make a formal introduction and answer any questions.



HOW TO CARE FOR YOUR BOULEVARD TREE

- With normal weather, for the first and second weeks, water the tree daily.
- For the next three months, water the tree every other day.
- After three months, the tree needs one inch of rainfall each week to stay healthy and establish proper root growth for two to four more seasons; if there is not enough rain you should water your trees.

See back side for further guidelines.



Growing from River to Ridge



- To water your tree, slowly pour at least three 5-gallon buckets of water over the tree roots, or put a hose under the tree and let it run gently for approximately one hour.

- **During dry weather in the spring, summer, and fall, water the tree once a week.**
- **Trees younger than five years old need one inch of rainfall each week to stay healthy; if there is not enough rain you should water your trees.**
- **To water a tree younger than five years old in dry weather, slowly pour at least four 5-gallon buckets of water over the tree roots or put a hose under the tree and let it run gently for one hour.**

- Mulch at the base of your tree holds in moisture, reduces weeds, and prevents damage from your lawn mower; you should remove any weeds that may grow in mulch by hand (not with chemicals).
- It is recommended to maintain four to six inches of mulch and to keep the mulch at least six inches away from the tree trunk to prevent stem girdling (see photo below).



NRAG

Conservation Partners Legacy (CPL) Grant Program

FY 2025 Application and Funding Schedule
 Application system opens for all grant cycles on August 1, 2024

Expedited Conservation Projects (ECP)*	Traditional, Metro, and New Applicant
<p>Round 1: September 9, 2024: ECP Round 1 closes at 4:00pm. October 18, 2024: ECP Round 1 awards are announced.</p>	<p>Round 1: September 17, 2024: Application system closes at 4:00pm. December 30, 2024: Round 1 awards announced.</p>
<p>Round 2: November 11, 2024: ECP Round 2 closes at 4:00pm. December 20, 2024: ECP Round 2 awards are announced.</p>	<p>Round 2: January 1, 2025: Round 2 application system opens if funds remain. February 19, 2025: Application system closes at 4:00pm May 9, 2024: Awards announced for Round 2</p>
<p>Round 3: January 13, 2025: ECP Round 3 closes at 4:00pm. February 21, 2025: ECP Round 3 awards are announced.</p>	
<p>Round 4: March 10, 2025: ECP Round 4 closes at 4:00pm. April 18, 2025: ECP Round 4 awards are announced.</p>	
<p>Round 5: May 12, 2025: ECP Round 5 closes at 4:00pm. June 20, 2025: ECP Round 5 awards are announced.</p>	

*ECP funds are available on a first-come, first-serve basis for approved, [eligible projects](#). Up to 5 Rounds will be held.

III C