



Wisconsin Urban Forestry Council

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The Wisconsin Community Canopy Initiative – 20 Million by 2020 Progress Report

We applaud your interest in community trees and want to keep you informed on the progress of the proposed *The Wisconsin Community Canopy Initiative – 20 Million by 2020*, which was first introduced to the Department of Natural Resources by the Wisconsin Urban Forestry Council in December, 2007. It proposes to care for our 27 million existing community trees and plant 20 million more by 2020.

To be successful, an effort of this magnitude will require collaboration and participation among a vast number of partners including various levels of government, schools, businesses, foundations, nonprofits and private citizens. Involvement by the DNR must move through the standard public policy decision making process. However, we envision the state's role as one to help initiate and cultivate collaboration and provide those support services needed to leverage additional resources on a national and state level.

Within the next few months, the Urban Forestry Council will learn more about the organizational and operational requirements that will be needed to support this program. At this time, the Urban Forestry Council has been busy gathering information by researching similar initiatives, meeting with potential partner groups, including the Governor's Global Warming Task Force, and strategizing how a project of this scope could evolve from vision to reality. There is tremendous enthusiasm for this initiative.

We thank you for your interest and efforts to support urban forestry in Wisconsin. To receive further information as it becomes available and learn how you could become involved as the initiative unfolds, please contact <http://dnr.wi.gov/forestry/UF/council/> or your regional urban forestry coordinator and ask to be included in the *20 Million by 2020* update list.

Although formal organization may be months away, you can support this initiative now:

- Plant a tree and care for trees already generating benefits
- Learn about your community forestry program and how you can become a community tree advocate
- Engage your elected official in conversations regarding the value of community trees
- Share your enthusiasm with neighbors, friends and especially youth

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The Wisconsin Urban Forestry Council serves as a statewide voice for critical issues impacting urban & community forests and is appointed by the Secretary of the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources. Composed of representatives of green industry organizations, state agencies, municipal arborists, non-profits and other partners, the Council is charged with advising the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) on the best ways to preserve, protect, expand and improve Wisconsin's urban and community forests.

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