City of Stevens Point Urban Forest Management Plan

City of Stevens Point Tree Inventory

The City of Stevens Point has commissioned a study of its public street tree inventory and current forestry program to evaluate the current condition of its public street trees and to establish an effective planning and management program for this valuable resource.

The major findings of Stevens Point's street tree inventory include the following:

City of Stevens Point's Resource Structure

- Stevens Point street tree inventory consists of a total of 9,954 total sites. Of these, 7,229 (72.62%) are trees, 2,718 (27.31%) are planting sites, and 7 (0.07%) are stumps.
- The total appraised value of Stevens Point's inventoried street tree population is estimated to be **$4,856,426** and the average value per tree is $671.80.
- Over 31% of trees are maple and 15% are ash.
- The majority of the trees (88%) are rated in Good condition.
- There are 1,076 ash trees. Not an ideal position for Emerald Ash Borer.

Environmental Function and Value

- The street trees intercept 5.4 million gallons of stormwater annually. The total value of this benefit to the City is $16,205 per year.
- Street trees in Stevens Point reduce atmospheric CO_2 by a net of 1,242 tons per year, valued at $18,486, for an average net benefit per tree of $2.58.
- The estimated total annual benefit associated with increased property values, aesthetics, and other less tangible improvements is $97,648 per year, for an average of $13.61 per inventoried tree.
- **The City of Stevens Point receives $1.74 in benefits for every $1 spent on its municipal forestry program.** The average net benefit for an individual street tree in Stevens Point is $12.99 per year.

Management Recommendations

Upon completion of this project I have a couple of key recommendations for the City

- Continue to pursue TC USA, strengthen partnerships, and apply for DNR grant funding.
- Increase tree planting by 185 trees per year to expand the extent of the resource and to be fully stocked in 10 years. Focus on large-stature trees where growing conditions permit and good-performing species to maximize benefits.
- Reduce dependence on maple and ash through careful species selection to achieve greater diversity and guard against catastrophic losses. Currently, maple and ash comprise approximately 47% of Stevens Point's inventoried street trees.
- Prepare for emerald ash borer and develop a sound management strategy.