

Project Overview

The City of Flint along with its local forestry partner, Genesee Conservation District, and Flint residents from impacted neighborhood associations, will join together to replace 330 of the City's 497 ash street trees.

All 497 ash trees have either been removed or are scheduled to be removed per the City's 2015 Street Tree Inventory and Management Plan.

A diverse selection of 1.5 to 2 inch caliper trees will be planted within the public right way at the site of former ash trees, with priority placed on the 330 locations nearest open water of the Flint River Watershed. Within the City of Flint limits, the Flint River System is made up of six creeks, three lakes, and the Flint River.

These 330 trees will manage 19,740 gallons of water runoff per year, and treat a combined 3.03 acres throughout the city.

The City of Flint and Genesee Conservation District will work to provide residents information on annual ecosystem services benefits including storm water treatment, carbon reduction, and pollution reduction.

Residents will also be provided with information on emerald ash borer and basic tree care. Volunteers will be recruited to provide basic maintenance beginning in year three of the maintenance cycle.

The reforestation of Flint's urban canopy will work with and build local community capacity through outreach and education, a goal outlined in the Michigan State Forest Action Plan.

Street trees also help to achieve another key issue outlined in the Michigan State Forest Action Plan, the reduction of threats from invasive species, pests, and disease.

This project links to the GLRI Action Plan by: 1) controlling established invasive species; 2) reducing untreated runoff from urban watersheds; and 3) protecting, restoring, and enhancing habitats to help sustain healthy populations of native species.

This project will also improve the biological diversity of street trees within Flint, which is overpopulated with Maple trees.

According to the 2015 Street Tree Inventory, 62% of Flint's total urban canopy are made up of trees within the Maple family. By planting a greater diversity of street trees, the overall health and resilience of Flint's urban tree canopy will be greatly improved.

The City of Flint has been highly successful in leveraging partnerships and funding to achieve many of the goals outlined in the Imagine Flint Master Plan for a Sustainable Flint, an activity that is expected to continue through this grant.