



# SAINT PAUL MINNESOTA



## FORESTRY UPDATE

Saint Paul City Council Budget Committee

June 17, 2026

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Urban Forester Supervisor

# Who We Are & What We Do

- Responsible for the care and maintenance of street and park trees throughout the city including:
  - Tree & stump removal
  - Planting
  - Pruning
  - Tree Health Inspections
  - Consultation on public & private construction/development/utility work
  - Storm response
  - Outreach/volunteers
- Work with other property owners (including other city departments & private property) to provide guidance on tree maintenance & enforce city ordinance related to Forestry/trees.
- Work with private & public partners on a variety of projects
- Manage multiple grants related to UF programs



# Where We Are

## Budgets

- General Fund
- CIB
- Port Authority
- Assessable Removals
- Grants



## Pressures

- Emerald Ash Borer (EAB), Dutch Elm Disease (DED), Oak Wilt & other pests
- Storms & Drought
- Long-term lack of pruning cycle
- Increase in development & construction
- Thousands of young trees that need formative pruning & care

Current proposed budget: General Fund- \$5,575,617.00

Forestry manages ~115,000 Right of way trees

*\*For comparison, Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board manages a similar number of public trees with nearly 2x the funding levels and staffing capacity*

# Forestry Goals—Post EAB Management

- Establish a pruning cycle
- Establish a 3-year tree replacement cycle
  - Year 1: tree removal
  - Year 2: stump removal
  - Year 3: tree planting



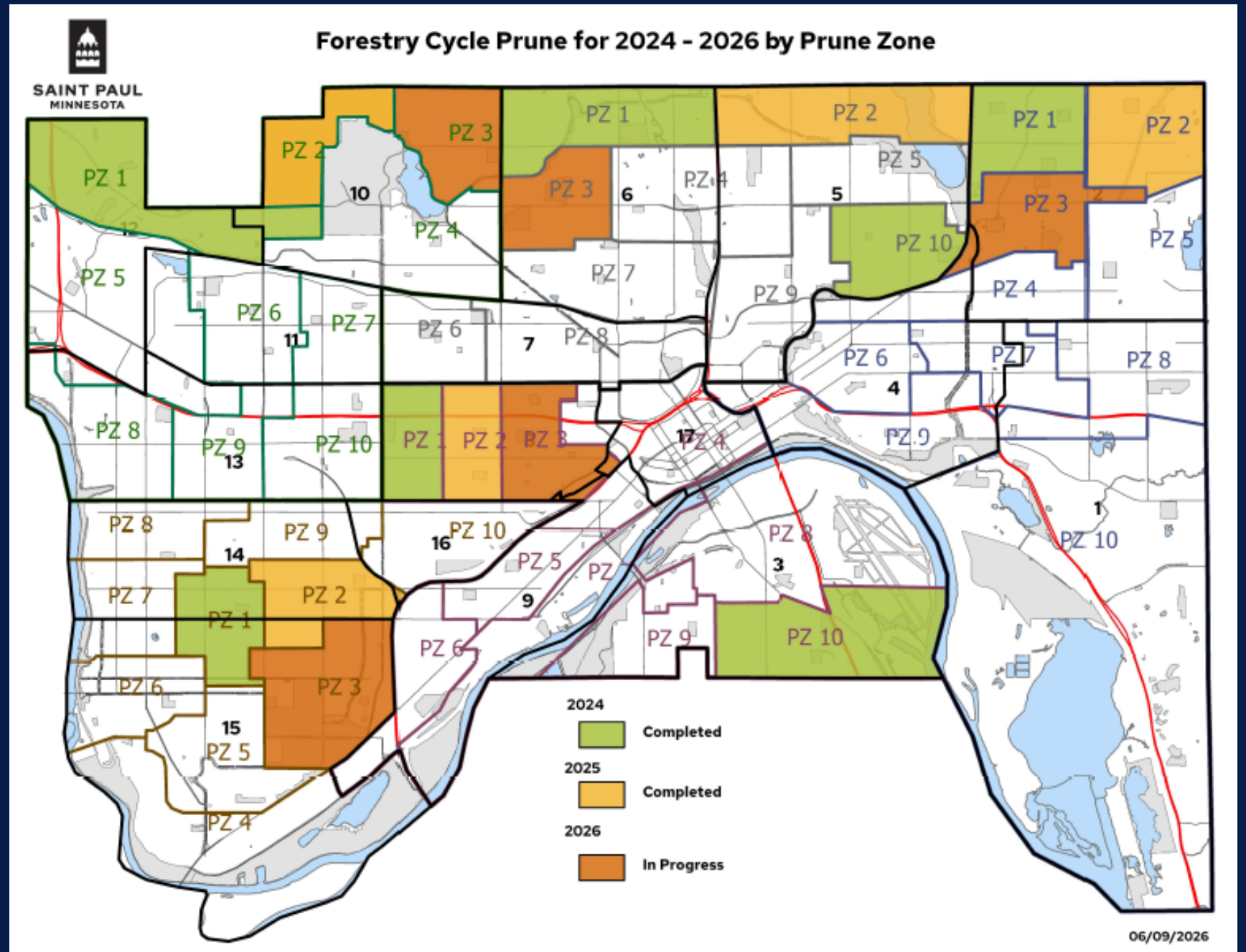
# Pruning

## Objectives:

- Reduce obstructions caused by low limbs
- Correct growth defects
- Establish branch structure in young trees
- Eliminate dead, dying, or structurally defective limbs (typ. 3" or greater)



# Pruning



# Pruning–Budget Need

	2027 Base	Ideal 2027	Annual Gap Compared to Ideal
GENERAL FUND	\$ 5,575,617	\$ 9,652,389	\$ 4,076,772
CIB (Tree Planting)	\$ 330,000	\$ 1,841,700	\$ 1,511,700
USFS Grant	\$ 389,000	\$ 389,000	\$ -
Storm Contingency	\$ -	\$ 1,000,000	\$ 1,000,000
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 6,294,617</b>	<b>\$ 12,883,089</b>	<b>\$ 6,588,472</b>
			<b>Backlog after 2031 if no additional funding is</b>
TREES REMOVED	1,825	1,825	-
STUMPS REMOVED	1,825	1,825	2,635
TREES PLANTED*	1,150	4,150	4,265
TREES PRUNED**	10,500	21,000	
<p>* We currently have approximately 6,000 vacant planting sites (where trees were previously removed) waiting for a tree to be planted</p> <p>** Ideal funding for pruning would have every tree pruned within 7 years to establish 10 year cycle. Current funding would prune every tree within 10 years</p>			

# Tree Planting

## Objectives:

- Increase species diversity
- Incorporate climate adaptive species
- Increase canopy in underrepresented areas
- Utilize volunteers!

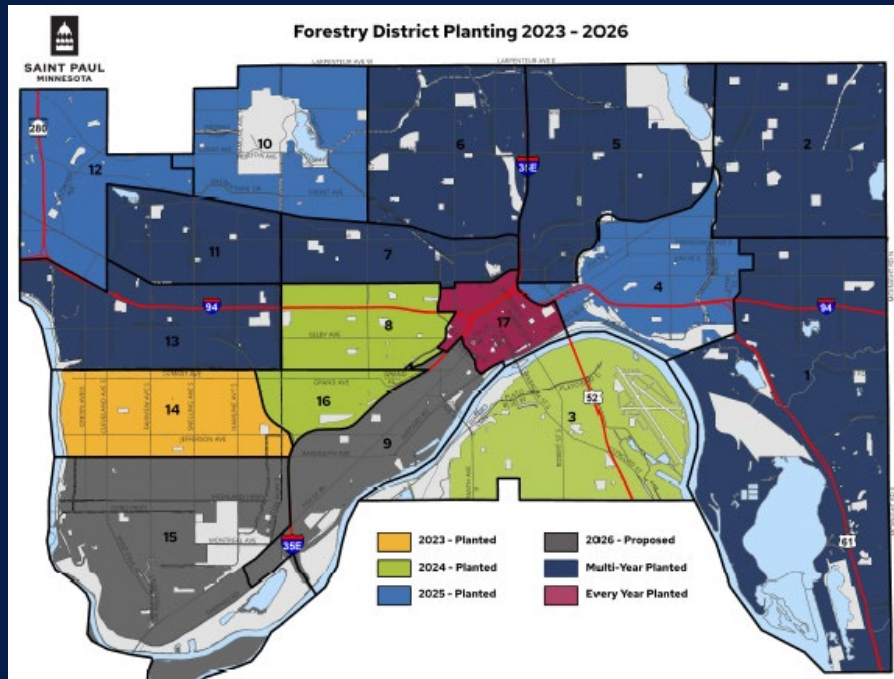


GENUS	2025 # TREES	2025 % OF TOTAL	2026 GOAL %	2026 # TREES
Acer*	28017	24.72%	10.00%	12500
Celtis	9130	8.06%	10.00%	12500
Gymnocladus	4578	4.04%	10.00%	12500
Quercus	11130	9.82%	10.00%	12500
Ulmus	11848	10.46%	10.00%	12500
Gleditsia	11498	10.15%	9.00%	11250
Betula	4446	3.92%	8.00%	10000
Tilia	13339	11.77%	8.00%	10000
Ginkgo	4849	4.28%	5.00%	6250
Aesculus	611	0.54%	3.00%	3750
Fagus	132	0.12%	3.00%	3750
Malus	4353	3.84%	3.00%	3750
Platanus	562	0.50%	3.00%	3750
Syringa	3315	2.93%	3.00%	3750
Amelanchier	918	0.81%	2.00%	2500
Maackia	398	0.35%	2.00%	2500
Catalpa	690	0.61%	1.00%	1250
Ostrya	478	0.42%	1.00%	1250
Phellodendron	439	0.39%	1.00%	1250
Pyrus	159	0.14%	1.00%	1250
Picea	931	0.82%	0.40%	500
Pinus	729	0.64%	0.40%	500
Crataegus	195	0.17%	0.20%	250
Populus	378	0.33%	0.20%	250
Cladrastis	36	0.03%	0.10%	125
Prunus	143	0.13%	0.10%	125
Sorbus	15	0.01%	0.05%	63
<b>Total</b>	<b>113317</b>	<b>100.00%</b>	<b>104.45%</b>	<b>130563</b>

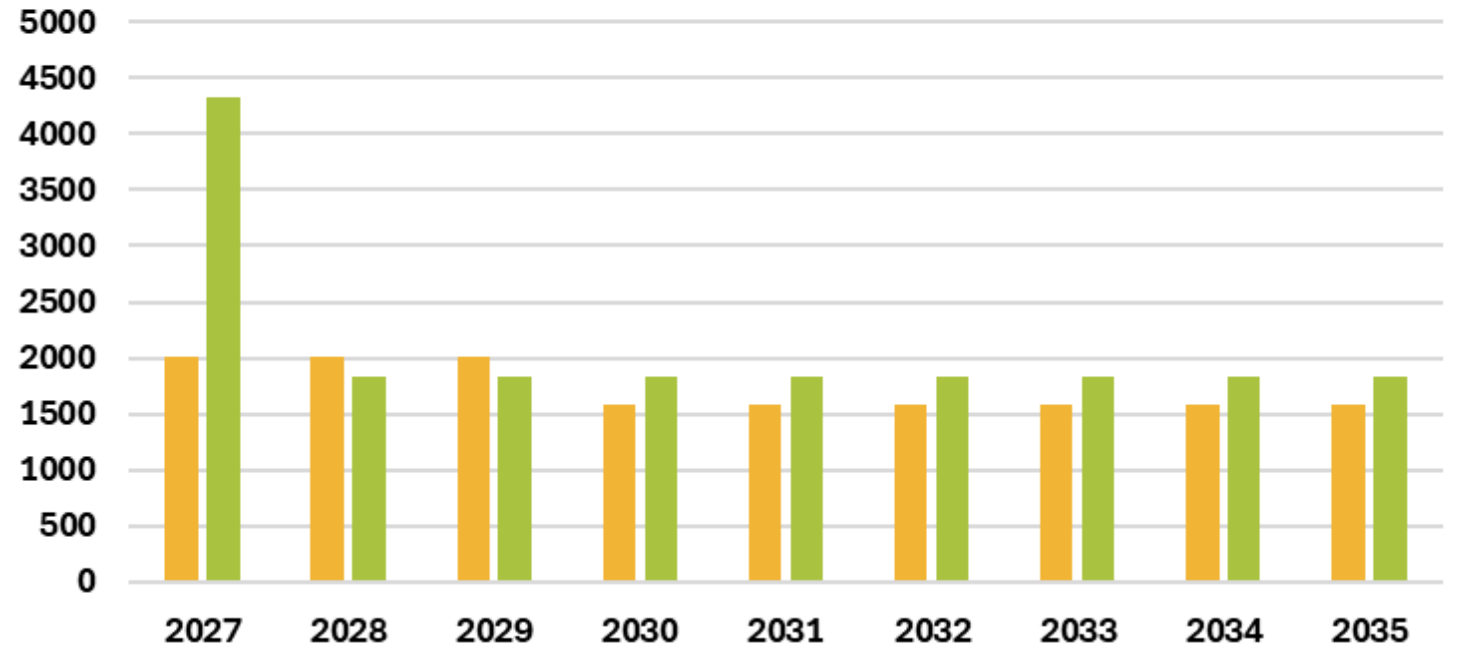
# Tree Planting

## Annual Planting Totals:

- 2023-2025: average 4,700 trees planted
- 2026: 3,580 planned (inc grant funded)
- 2027: 2,005 projected (inc grant funded)



### Annual Tree Planting: Resourced Vs. Optimal



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# Tree & Stump Removal

## Trees:

- Remove ~1,825 trees on average annually over past 10 years (not including ash)
- Primarily in-house staff

## Stumps:

- To remain on track, plan on ~1,825 from previous year removals
- Primarily contractors



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# Status Quo Funding = Tough Choices Ahead

- Pruning cycle remains at 10 years
  - Complaints annually, especially those areas scheduled for year 10
  - Young trees may not be pruned in first round depending on when planted
- Planting
  - Replacing at a deficit; backlog grows annually; complaints increase
  - Will not meet goal of 3-year replacement cycle
  - Continue to lose ground with canopy growth
- Stump Removal
  - Removing stumps at a deficit beginning in 2029
  - Complaints increase

**Thank  
You!**

