



## ROOTS Community Investment Program 2020 Grant Application Guide – Phase 1

### About

Restoration Of Our Trees Sheboygan (ROOTS) is a cooperative partnership of the Sheboygan Rotary Club in conjunction with the Sheboygan County Rotary Foundation and Lakeshore Natural Resource Partnership (LNRP). A principal objective of ROOTS is combating the on-going and spreading infestation of the invasive Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) throughout eastern Wisconsin and Sheboygan County in particular.

In addition to providing for expanded public outreach and education as well as enhanced forest management and planning, ROOTS seeks to mitigate the impact of EAB through marshalling private and public sector financial and other resources in grants to qualified local government agencies and private sector entities administering lands for public purposes. ROOTS receives and administers private sector resources through the Sheboygan County Rotary Foundation, an IRS certified 509a(1) public charity, which serves as executive agent for its ROOTS Community Investment Fund. Allocation of grants is based on the recommendation of the ROOTS Grant Advisory Committee which conducts technical reviews of grant applications and tenders recommendations for final action to the Sheboygan County Rotary Foundation Board.

The ROOTS Community Investment Program seeks to fund results-oriented grant proposals on public lands and private lands held for public purposes which mitigate the impact of EAB on the tree canopy in Sheboygan County. The program seeks to develop resilient reforestation plans, promote safe removal of infested trees, and plant a substantial diverse (non-ash) replacement tree stock as quickly as possible. Successful applications must offer plans for sustainable mitigation, cost-effective management of resources, and financial/resource accountability.

- Awards will range from \$500 to \$20,000. Applicant dollar contributions to proposed projects as well as in-kind investments of labor, equipment, material, and other resources will be specified in the application and be a factor in the grant evaluation by the ROOTS Advisory Committee and the Sheboygan County Rotary Foundation. ROOTS grant evaluation encourages and will favorably consider additional financial contributions to projects from other sources (e.g. corporate, non-profit and governmental sources).
- Applications are reviewed quarterly and are due on March 1<sup>st</sup>, June 1<sup>st</sup>, September 1<sup>st</sup>, and December 1<sup>st</sup>. Grants will be awarded based on available funding and the merits of the application.
- Grant recipients may be required to participate in ROOTS public outreach and promotional efforts to further community engagement and support for ROOTS EAB mitigation efforts.

### Who May Apply

Eligible applicants are government entities within Sheboygan County (e.g. city, village, town and county) and 501c(3) nonprofit organizations with impacted forest holdings in the County which are held or administered for the general public benefit.

### Eligible Projects

An eligible project may include a broad range of management activities that mitigate the impact of the EAB on public lands in Sheboygan County and may have a singular focus or multiple components. Eligible activities include but are not limited to: developing resilient reforestation plans, removing infested trees, planting replacement trees, and engaging the community in outreach and education.



## ROOTS – Restoration Of Our Trees Sheboygan

Sheboygan Rotary Club/Sheboygan County Rotary Foundation

The Lakeshore Natural Resource Partnership

Supporting Solutions that Mitigate the Impact of the Emerald Ash Borer

Eligible projects will:

- Demonstrate a thorough understanding of the adverse environmental impact of
- EAB on the tree canopy throughout Sheboygan County;
- Demonstrate the applicant’s capacity to plan and execute successful mitigation measures in response to EAB;
- Advance established urban forestry recommendations or best management practices of government or community agencies;
- Attain significant mitigation on an accelerated and/or priority basis; and
- Demonstrate the ability to leverage additional resources through partnerships and creative collaborations.

### Grant Program Focus

Successful projects will place an emphasis on the impact that healthy urban forests have on the ecosystem, resulting in one or more of the following:

- Increasing local government capacity to positively impact the urban forest;
- Fostering a sense of public pride and identification with woodlands, robust and sustainable tree canopies composed of diverse native species and associated ecological resources throughout Sheboygan County; and
- Protecting or restoring unique natural areas.

### Eligible Costs

Eligible costs are those costs directly related to the completion of the project as detailed in the project budget and incurred during the project period. Costs will be reimbursed upon verified completion of project milestones and must be documented, reasonable, and consistent with the project scope, and include contractor invoices, if applicable. In-kind contributions of county/municipal/town/village equipment, material, and/or staff time may be considered as part of the overall project cost. Although not an absolute condition for receiving an award, applicants are strongly encouraged, when feasible, to make direct financial contributions to overall project costs.

### How to Apply

Complete the grant application form, available at [www.lnrp.org](http://www.lnrp.org) or [ROOTSWI.org](http://ROOTSWI.org), and submit the application with all supporting documents via email prior to the quarterly deadline.

Email application materials to LNRP Director of Programming, Kendra Kelling, at [Kendra@LNRP.org](mailto:Kendra@LNRP.org). **Include the name of the application agency or organization in the subject line along with “ROOTS Grant Application” All attachments must be in either Microsoft Word or PDF format and include the name of the applicant agency or organization and project name in the file title.**

In addition to the ROOTS Grant Application, applicants may provide plans or other documentation explaining or depicting the project(s) for which resources are sought. Applicants should include the following if applicable: partner letters of support and authorizing resolution if required by the applicant’s governing body.

Prospective applicants may contact Kendra Kelling at [Kendra@LNRP.org](mailto:Kendra@LNRP.org) or (920)-946-2247, or Tony Fessler, Sheboygan Rotary Club ROOTS Coordinator, at [fessler.e.anthony@gmail.com](mailto:fessler.e.anthony@gmail.com) or (920)-946-6770 for guidance on assessing eligibility, defining the project, and review of application prior to submission. The ROOTS Grant Advisory Committee looks forward to engaging with each applicant and providing interactive and ongoing support.