

**CITY OF VERONA**

**PARK, RECREATION, AND FORESTRY COMMISSION**

**WEDNESDAY January 18, 2023 – 5:30 P.M.**

**VERONA PUBLIC WORKS**

**410 INVESTMENT COURT**

**A G E N D A**

1. Call to order.
2. Roll call.
3. Public Comment.
4. Approve the minutes of the December 14, 2022, meeting of the Park, Recreation, and Forestry Commission.
5. Discussion Re: Mowing Operations (H. Reekie).
6. Discussion Re: EAB Mitigation Plan.
7. Updates from the departments.
8. Adjourn.

Tyler Powers  
Chairperson

POSTED: Verona City Hall  
Verona Public Library  
Miller's Market

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IF YOU NEED AN INTERPRETER, MATERIALS IN ALTERNATIVE FORMATS, OR OTHER ACCOMMODATION TO ACCESS THE MEETINGS, PLEASE CONTACT THE CITY CLERK AT 845-6495 AT LEAST 48 HOURS PRECEDING THE MEETING. EVERY REASONABLE EFFORT WILL BE MADE TO ACCOMMODATE YOUR REQUEST.

**CITY OF VERONA**

**MINUTES**  
**PARK, RECREATION & FORESTRY COMMISSION**  
**WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 19, 2022**

1. The meeting was called to order by Tyler Powers at 5:31 p.m.
2. Roll Call: Present: Tyler Powers, Phil Hoechst, Heather Reekie, Paul Schmidt, Mark Giesfeldt. Also present: Casey Dudley, Recreation Director, Adam Waszak, Parks & Urban Forestry Director, Brian Munson and Matt Burke, Vandewalle & Associates, Ashley Heidorn, Fiduciary Real Estate Development.
3. No public comments were made.

**Motion made by P. Schmidt, seconded by M. Giesfeldt, to close public comment. Motion carried 5 - 0.**

4. No discussion

**Motion made by H. Reekie, seconded by M. Giesfeldt, to approve the minutes of the October 19, 2022 meeting of the Park, Recreation, and Forestry Commission. Motion carried 5 - 0.**

5. A. Waszak provided a brief introduction.
6. B. Munson and M. Burke provided a brief presentation on the proposed Ardent Glen development with a focus on the parkland to be dedicated to the City.

M. Giesfeldt questioned if there was consideration to locate the larger park in the northern portion of development, B. Munson states that the parkland was located in correspondence with the adopted neighborhood plan.

P. Hoechst asked for clarification on the floodway/greenway as it relates to parkland credit. B. Munson stated the floodway and stormwater facilities were not included in the totals for parkland credit.

A. Waszak requested more information on the privately-maintained “mini-parks” throughout the development. B. Munson stated that while the parks will be dedicated to the City, all maintenance of these park facilities will be handled by the development’s Home Owners Association (HOA). H. Reekie questioned if staff have concerns with an outside group maintaining City parks. A. Waszak stated that staff would need to work closely with the HOA to ensure that City standards are being met with the maintenance of these facilities. H. Reekie stated that the City should look into providing language that will allow for the recouping of costs if the HOA fails to adequately maintain the private parks. T. Powers questioned if the City has given parkland credit for “mini-parks” in the past. C. Dudley stated that the Commission has not granted credits for small parks or greenways in the past.

P. Hoechst stated concerns with O.L. 16 not being accessible to the general public. H. Reekie agreed and that no one from the public would know the park was there, and that it would only benefit the 6 adjacent dwellings. T. Powers agreed that the area would not be accessible to the general public.

T. Powers stated that parkland under a certain acreage threshold or that is not generally accessible should not be included in any parkland credits. P. Hoechst agreed with concerns over O.L. 14, O.L. 15 and O.L. 16.

**Motion made by T. Powers, seconded by P. Hoechst to approve the preliminary plat for Ardent Glen with the removal of O.L.14, O.L.15 and O.L.16 from parkland dedication credits. Motion carried 5-0.**

7. A. Heidorn provided a brief introduction to Fiduciary Real Estate and talked about the future development proposal for the Dreger property. The conceptual plan shows a 1.5-2 acre parcel located on the Western end of the development to be dedicated to the City for parkland. A. Waszak stated that with the changes to the Whispering Coves development as it relates to the future school no longer being located within the development, staff feel it would be best to try to locate a roughly 4 acre park in a centralized location that can serve both developments. When a Plat is resubmitted for Whispering Coves, staff will push for 2 acres of parkland adjacent to the parcel in question to form the 4 acre park.

The commission members stated general support of the proposed parkland.

8. C. Dudley clarified the action that was previously taken on increasing rental fees for park shelters, as the motion that was made was not clear. To clarify C. Dudley indicated that shelter rental rates will be \$100 for residents of Verona and \$200 for non-residents of Verona. These rates are based off of rental group sizes of 1-50 people. There will be an additional charge of \$50 for every additional 50 people included in the rental.

**Motion made by M. Giesfeldt, seconded by P. Hoechst to approve the 2023 park facility rental fees as presented. Motion carried 5-0.**

9. C. Dudley & A. Waszak provided brief updates.
10. Moved by H. Reekie, seconded by P. Hoechst, to adjourn. Motion carried 5 – 0. Time: 7:04 p.m.

Tyler Powers  
Chairperson



# MEMO

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**To:** Park, Recreation & Forestry Commission

**From:** Adam Waszak CPRP, Parks & Urban Forestry Director

**Date:** 12/27/2022

**Subject:** EAB MITIGATION PLAN

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## **BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

Emerald Ash Borer was first confirmed in Dane County in 2013. Since then, it has devastated the ash tree population, not just in the greater Madison area, but throughout the country. The City of Verona has actively been treating public ash trees since 2014/2015.

## **STAFF ANALYSIS**

As the City's forestry division continues to grow and evolve, staff are continuously analyzing the cost-benefit of treating public ash trees. Mature ash trees play a vital role in our community's urban canopy; however, long term treatment of roughly 450 ash trees may not be within the community's best financial interests. The cost for materials to treat the roughly 450 ash trees ranges from \$6,500 - \$9,500 annually. Staff spend an average of 70 - 210 hours annually performing the treatments. It can be assumed that the cost of labor for treatment ranges from \$2,355.5 – \$7,066.5. Along with the cost to treat public ash trees, the City has funded the removal and replacement of over 50 ash trees to date. The cost to effectively treat each tree averages around \$15/caliper inch. In order to remain effective, treatments need to occur every other year. With that in mind, the cost to treat a roughly 35' tall ash tree that has a diameter of 18" would come to \$270 every two years (in 2022 dollars). Within a decade, taken into account inflationary factors and growth of the tree, the City would have invested over \$1,750 into that single tree. In comparison, it would cost roughly \$250 to plant a replacement 10' greenspire linden at year 1. Assuming average growth patterns, the linden would surpass 35' in height at the end of the same 10-year period.

## **OPTIONS**

### **Continue Treatments (Status Quo)**

In sticking with the status quo, the City can continue to treat the 450 public ash trees. It can be assumed that roughly 10 public ash trees will continue to need to be removed on an annual

basis. Safe removals by City staff are more complicated with advanced deterioration. This will result in an increase of contracted removals.

#### Supplement Treatments & Removals/Replacements – Preferred

The City has the option of beginning to systematically remove and replace public ash trees. The idea would be to focus on ash trees showing the most significant decline. If funds remain each year, forestry crews would then focus on target “pockets” of trees. This method allows for the most efficiency when removing and replacing trees.

Along with the systematic removals, forestry staff will identify a select number of public ash trees, based upon funding, to continuously treat. These select trees would be considered “legacy trees”. Selection of these trees would be determined based upon health, size, location, and visibility. Along with the City identifying legacy trees, homeowners would have the option of funding the treatment of street trees adjacent to their homes. Forestry crews would handle the scheduling and treatment of the tree, and the homeowners would then be billed for the service.

#### Eradicate

The final option would be to shift funds for treatment to the removal and replacement of all public ash trees. Since treatment would halt, the City would need to commit to removing 100-200 ash trees annually in order to decrease the likelihood of failing trees.

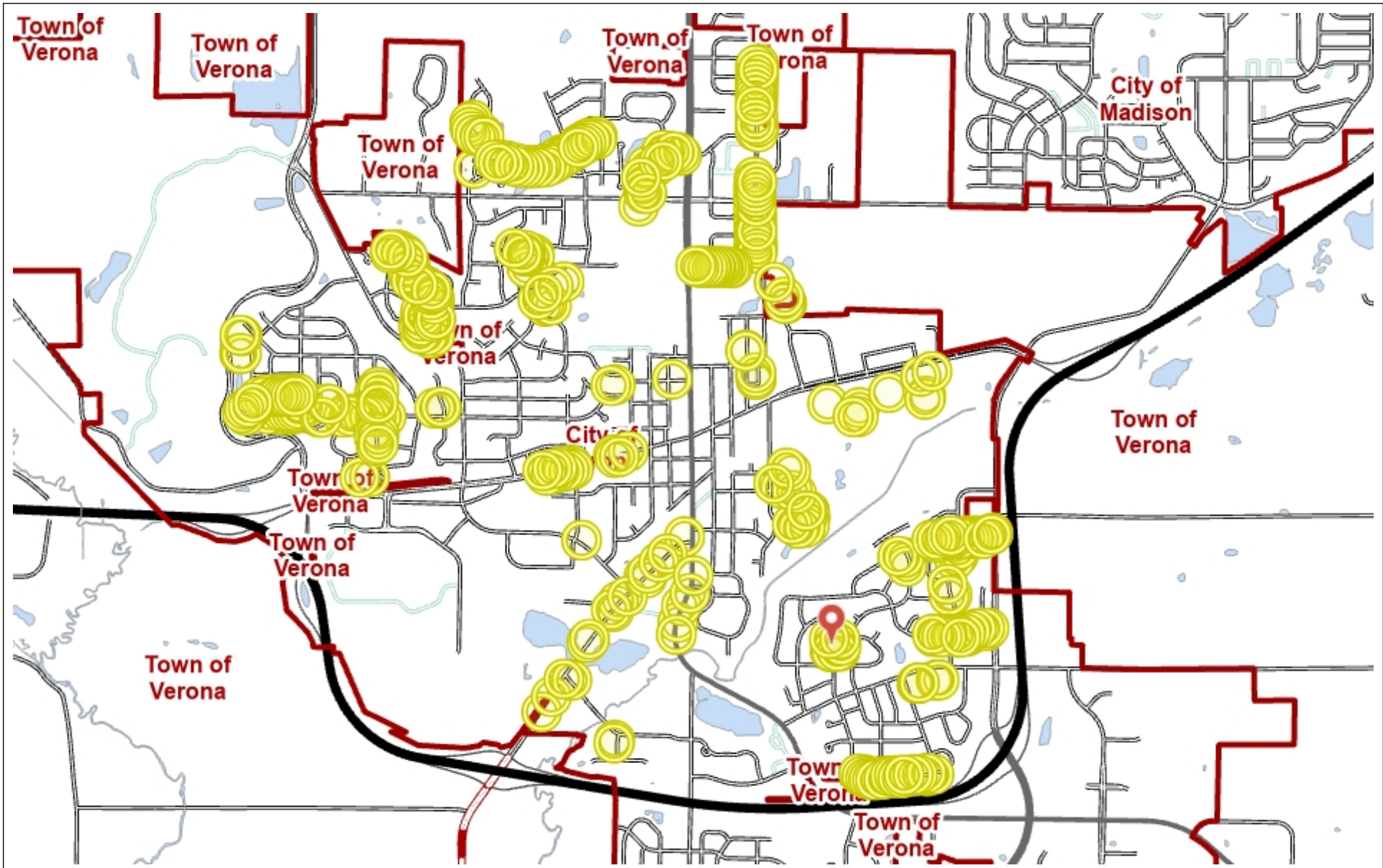
### **STAFF RECOMMENDATION**

At this time, staff feel the best option is to plan on systematically removing select ash, while identifying and continuing to treat legacy trees. Knowing that treatment is not 100% effective, and that trees do have a finite amount of treatments that can be adequately completed, staff believe the reinvesting in planting new trees is in the best interest of the City. Some of the benefits of removing and replacing selected ash trees include decrease in failing limbs/trees (safety), increase diversity and health of canopy, and more advantageous planting locations (proximity to infrastructure).

Based upon the direction from the Park, Recreation & Forestry Commission, staff will develop a final mitigation plan with refined costs. This plan will be brought back to the Commission before implementation. Budget allocations will need to be approved by City Council.

### **ATTACHMENTS**

- Ash Inventory Map



City of Verona GIS

Ash Tree Inventory

DISCLAIMER: The City of Verona does not guarantee the accuracy of the material contained here in and is not responsible for any misuse or misrepresentation of this information or its derivatives.



SCALE: 1" = 3247'



City of Verona

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