

DNR UCF Updates

Date: 6/30/2022

Staff Updates

- Emma Schultz, Community Forest Project Specialist, is on parental leave until September 1, 2022.
- The Community Environmental Justice Coordinator position has been filled by Molly Coddling. Molly began on June 22, 2022 and excited to begin working for underserved communities.
- We are currently waiting for DNR's Human Resources review for a 3 year project specialist position to assist with the LCCMR Protect Community Forests by Managing Ash for EAB.
- A single intern was hired for the LCCMR Protect Community Forests by Managing Ash for EAB for summer tree inventory. The University of Minnesota has stepped up with their student workers to assist in the statistical tree samplings throughout the state.

Grant Updates

- Protect Community Forests by Managing Ash for EAB (LCCMR):
 - Contracts with partners are in process, with some being fully executed and some awaiting signature from partners.
- 2022 Preparing for EAB received 22 application totaling \$1.8 million in requests. A total of 21 application were funded.
 - Contracts with partners are in process, with some being fully executed and some awaiting signature from partners.
- A competitive grant from the Forest Service was recently awarded for \$489,000 to assist in public and private tree planting with a focus on underserved communities.
- The UCF team is being awarded funds from the Investment in Infrastructure and Jobs Act for:
 - Environmental Justice
 - Urban Wood Utilization
 - EAB Assistance to the new finds in NE Minnesota

Legislative Updates

- The Urban and Community Forestry team is submitting a change level request for additional funding around emerald ash borer management.

Forest Service Update

The iTree program has secured funding for the year and I believe there is an intention to add them to a consistent line item.