



MEMORANDUM

To: Menasha Common Council

From: PRD Tungate *BT*

Date: January 30, 2014

RE: 2014 Wisconsin Urban Forestry Council Award

The City of Menasha has received a 2014 Wisconsin Urban Forestry Council Award for its "30 for 30 partnership project" with CN. The award was presented at last week's annual Wisconsin Arborists Association Conference in Green Bay. Plans are being made to have the award presented again at a future Common Council meeting.

2014 Wisconsin Urban Forestry Council Award Recipients

The Wisconsin Urban Forestry Council presents annual awards to outstanding individuals, organizations, communities and tribes that further urban forestry in Wisconsin. The awards are announced each year at the annual Wisconsin Urban Forestry Conference and presented to winners in their community. The categories of awards and selections for 2014 are:

Distinguished Service award recognizes an individual for their outstanding contributions to urban forestry in Wisconsin.

Laura DeGolier of Fond du Lac is this year's recipient in recognition of her volunteer work and leadership in maintaining the Greenway Arboretum, including its hundreds of trees, recruiting and coordinating volunteers and as a tireless advocate for natural resources including invasive species removal, water sampling, landscape and trail maintenance at two city parks, and spearheading the city's efforts to become a Bird City Wisconsin. And all of this as a volunteer.

Project Partnership award recognizes outstanding projects that utilize partnerships as a means of providing services or benefits to the urban forest. We have two recipients this year.

Sparta High School Earth Club, partnering with Century Foods International of Sparta, the City of Sparta, Polar Bears International and Milwaukee County Zoo for the "Trees For You and Me" project and "Tree Planting for Climate Change". These award winning projects combined recycling, grants, and old fashioned fundraising to benefit the City of Sparta's forestry program. The group's efforts resulted in a long term partnership project that has resulted in a healthier and more diverse urban forest. It has had tremendous impact on the community's trees to the tune of approximately \$23,000 over 10 years.

Menasha and CN for "30 for 30 Partnership Project", while celebrating 30 years as a Tree City USA. The city, CN, and numerous volunteer groups teamed up to improve the long term health and diversity of the urban forest, provide education, and instill ownership in the community. As a result, 240 trees were planted. 30 in each of the City's aldermanic districts and over 100 volunteers participated. What a great way to celebrate 30 years.

Innovation: This award recognizes the creativity, commitment and success of urban forestry efforts. We have two recipients in this category as well this year.

Bob Wesp, Dwayne Sperber and City of Milwaukee for Urban Wood Utilization. Urban Wood Utilization is taking on a higher profile for several reasons. Promoting the best use of what has been called wood waste in the past is becoming more crucial with time and this team has been innovative and working hard at developing a market for urban wood resulting from necessary tree removals. It has resulted in less wood going into landfills, less cost to taxpayers, and a higher use of our urban resources.

Mequon Nature Preserve Reforestation Program This program involves planting thousands of trees, invasive species removal, new walking trails, and an environmental science program. Goals include restoring forest canopy, contributing to research, addressing environmental concerns, and increasing biodiversity of an urban forest. The Mequon Nature Preserve serves over a million people who live throughout the metropolitan Milwaukee area.

Lifetime Achievement: This award recognizes outstanding contributions to urban forestry in Wisconsin demonstrated throughout a lifetime career.

Todd Ernster is this year's recipient. Todd is currently the City Forester for the City of Stevens Point where he has worked for the past 25 years. Todd worked his way up through the ranks from arborist after graduating from UWSP. He has continued a fine tradition of Tree City USA accomplishments. Responsible for authoring the city's specifications for protecting trees during construction activities, he has also developed brochures, signage on busses, website information, provided information to newspapers, the Park Board and the Common Council. Todd has been on the WAA program committee giving back to his profession. He shares his expertise by helping the WIDNR on the Community Tree Management Institute. And he mentors students every year while they perform seasonal duties for the city. Todd has given much to our industry and it's a pleasure to recognize him with this award.