



Dane County Tree Board

STE. 138 5201 FEN OAK DRIVE
MADISON WI 53718-8812

PH: 608/224-3700
FAX: 608/224-3727
TTY: 608/224-3703

Chair

Matt Noone
Capitol Area Regional
Planning Commission

Vice-Chair

Jay Weiss
Cambridge Tree Project

Tierney Bosci
PhD candidate in UW-
Madison Forest and Wildlife
Ecology Dept.

Cathy Brodbeck
Certified Arborist

Tedward Erker
Utility Company

Kate Kendziora
MG&E Utility Co.

Michele Ritt
Dane County Board
Supervisor

Cory Rich
Operation Fresh Start

Laura Wyatt
Retired Director, Lakeshore
Nature Preserve

April 11th, 2025

Dear Dane County Board of Supervisors,

2024 Dane County Tree Board Reflections

Mission Statement- Advocating for equitable healthy community forests in Dane County

The Dane County Tree Board (DCTB) currently has nine dedicated active members representing a diverse range of industries and interests. Currently, The DCTB is represented by: Operation Fresh Start, Madison Gas and Electric, Arborists, UW Forestry, Local Non-Profits, Regional Government Organizations and local citizens. The DCTB is supported with one Dane County support staff member and two advisors, the regional WI-DNR Urban and Community Forestry Coordinator and the Dane County Forester.

The Dane County Tree Board was established in 1990's to advise Dane County in tree related policy issues and to advocate for healthy community forests in Dane County. The DCTB is grateful for continued County support and desires to explain the benefits this support has provided over the last year.

DCTB Accomplishments:

- In 2023 and 2024 the DCTB established a program to provide education curriculum and work with local schools to grow trees to increase tree canopy while providing environmental education throughout our region.
 - Over 400 students have been involved in this program.
 - Over 1,000 trees are being grown throughout our communities at DCTB established Tree Nurseries.
 - In 2025, the DCTB has plans to install the 7th Tree Nursery in Dane County,
- 2023/2024 - The DCTB Established update Mission and Vision statements.
- DCTB scheduled and held 12 meetings in 2024.
- All nine board member positions are filled.
- Development of a Dane County Resolution supporting tree protection mechanisms across all Dane County managed lands.

DCTB Events:

- Established a Tree Nursery at Thoreau Elementary (west side Madison) - all 1st and 4th grade classes participated in the project. The City of Madison Forester, the Tree Board, the Driftless Conservancy, the Regional Planning Commission in addition to parent volunteers assisted in this project.
- Established a Tree Nursery at Westside Elementary (Sun Prairie) - all Kindergarten classes participated, the City of Sun Prairie Forester, the Tree Board, along with the Regional Planning Commission and parent volunteers assisted in the project.
- Established a Tree Nursery at Shabazz High School (north side Madison) - interested students participated, the Tree Board along with the Regional Planning Commission and parent volunteers assisted in the project.
- Tabled an event and distributed 150 heritage oak offspring saplings at the Lussier Center for the Earth Day Extravaganza.
- Tabled an event and distributed 315 heritage oak offspring saplings at the Party for the Planet event at the Henry Vilas Zoo
- Distributed Heritage Oak seedlings to various municipalities/entities:
 - Town of Cottage Grove: 75
 - Village of Cottage Grove: 25
 - Town of Rutland: 10
 - Town of Bristol: 10
 - City of Madison: 15
 - Holy Wisdom Monastery: 100
 - Dane County Airport: 4
- Tamarack Trails commemorative tree planting event - provided historical landscape perspective to residents and planted a grove of heritage oaks.

Awards Received:

- Dane County Staff, DCTB Members, Madison College Urban Forestry Students, and the Village of Dane Public Works received a Gold Leaf Award from the International Society of Arboriculture for the Collaborative Tree Planting Project held in the Village of Dane. The award was presented at the Wisconsin Arborist Assc/DNR Annual Conference in Green Bay.
- DCTB Advisor - Adam Alves received the Wisconsin Arborist Association's Richard Rideout Distinguished Service Award at its annual conference in Green Bay.
- DCTB Vice-Chair - Jay Weiss, Cambridge Tree Project: received the WI Urban Forestry Council's Leadership Award at its annual conference in Green Bay.
- DCTB Chair - Matt Noone received the Environmental Systems Research Institutes Significant Achievement in GIS award at its annual conference in Green Bay.

Drafted letters of support:

- Reviewed and offered recommendations on Dane County Parks and Open Space Plan.
- Urban Tree Alliance Inflation Reduction Act Grant application
- Capital Area Regional Planning Commission Community Forest Corp Grant application
- Madison Area Technical College to support their 2-year arboriculture program

- Letter of support for preserving a heritage swamp white oak in the Village of Shorewood.

Website:

- Revamping of the Dane County Tree Board Website. The website now provides a data portal for the public to learn more about tree issues.
- Created a database and web map showing the [heritage oaks planting locations](#). Distributed trees were planted in 14 different Wisconsin counties.
- Released [Growing Shade Tool](#), a tool for evaluating equitable tree canopy cover and heat impacts across the county.
- [Released Witness Tree Database](#) depicting historical vegetation prior to European American arrival.
- Released a community based web mapping tool to identify [Remarkable Trees in Dane County](#).

Heritage Oak Project:

- Updated an inventory of 200 year old oak trees in Dane County.
- Over 75 community volunteers were involved in the project's [crowdsourced webmap](#).
- Inventoried 390 Heritage oaks.
- Presented to Wisconsin Master Gardeners.
- Presented to a televised WI PBS broadcast.

Sincerely,



Matt Noone

Dane County Tree Board Chair



White oak acorns collected from Heritage Oaks and the Bag-A-Nut Collector



DNR Nursery in Boscobel growing over 30,000 Dane County Tree Board heritage oaks. "From the finest and best oaks wise persons will secure acorns for planting" – Walter Scott - 1976



Tree Nursery installation at Schenck Elementary



Tree Nursery installation at West Side Elementary in Sun Prairie



Thoreau Elementary Tree Nursery WorkStation



Tree Nursery Installation at Shabazz High School



Party for the Planet tree give away and educational stations



Earth Day Extravaganza tree give away at the Lussier Center



Tamarack Trails HomeOwners Association Heritage Oak Tree Planting



Kindergarteners at Nuestro Mundo learning about oak trees