



PRESS RELEASE

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Madison Community Foundation to Help Plant 283 Trees

Tree planting honors Legacy Society members

On Friday, September 17, representatives from Madison Community Foundation and the Foundation for Dane County Parks will join Dane County Parks staff to plant trees in William G. Lunney Lake Farm County Park in Madison. The group will meet at shelter #3 and plant trees from 2 – 4 pm. The press is welcome.

Madison Community Foundation purchased 283 trees in honor of their Legacy Society members, and the trees have spent some of 2021 in the Dane County Parks Nursery or have begun to be planted by many groups including Operation Fresh Start, youth groups, and business groups. The foundation's Legacy Society is composed of generous people who plan to provide permanent benefit for our community and the causes they care about by naming Madison Community Foundation in their estate plan.

"While we were unable to gather for our annual Legacy Society luncheon in 2020, we still wanted a way to recognize these individuals' long-term commitment to philanthropy," says David Koehler, Vice President of Donor Engagement. "The Legacy Forest, made possible through the Dane County Parks and Foundation, honors MCF's Legacy Society members and the lasting impact they have on our community and beyond."

The majority of the 283 tree plantings are taking place this fall at parks selected due to extreme loss of ash trees because of the emerald ash borer. The gift of the Legacy Forest allows trees to be planted in McCarthy, Token Creek, Lunney Lake Farm, Goodland, Mendota, and CamRock County Parks.

The Foundation for Dane County Parks President William Lunney said, "It is an honor to partner with the Madison Community Foundation on this exciting project. It exemplifies the importance of thinking long term as these trees will provide shade and diversity in this beautiful landscape for generations to come. This project fulfills the concept that a healthy community plants trees under whose shade they do not plan to sit, which succinctly embodies the concept of legacy giving."

Madison Community Foundation staff will be planting some of the trees for the Legacy Forest in W. G. Lunney Lake Farm County Park, located south of the Beltline Highway in the Capital Springs State Recreation Area. It has over 300 acres, a mile of shoreline on Lake Waubesa, a campground, three

shelter facilities, fishing piers, spacious prairies and a boat launch. Both the Capital City State Trail and Lower Yahara River Trail run through the park and provide bikers and pedestrians with abundant recreation opportunities.

“Tree diversity is the key to a resilient urban forest. Dane County Parks plants a diverse population of trees to reduce current and future risks of diseases and pest concerns. We choose varieties of trees that are less susceptible to current and projected pests in our area,” says Adam Alves, Dane County Parks Forester. He continues, “For example London Planetrees fill the niche for sycamore but are resistant to anthracnose, which is a common fungal disease. We will be planting mostly oak trees – both white oak and swamp white oak. The group will also plant some birch, London planetrees and elms.”

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Madison Community Foundation’s mission is to enhance the common good through philanthropy. Established as a community trust in 1942, Madison Community Foundation, together with donors, has distributed more than \$250 million to strengthen causes and communities in Dane County and around the world. Learn more at madisongives.org.