From: Roddie Turner
To: #CI-StPaul_Council
Subject: Public Comment Ord 25-4
Date: Monday, July 6, 2026 9:06:29 PM

[Some people who received this message don't often get email from roddieturner@gmail.com. Learn why this is important at https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification]

Think Before You Click: This email originated outside our organization.

>
> I am writing regarding the Tree Ordinance for City Sponsored Projects Res 26-08.
> This is an important and impactful step in protecting our essential tree canopy. I am concerned about enforcement. Cities like Savannah, GA and Washington, DC have tree ordinances that have been successful in preservation implementation. Those ordinances require that an arborist be present during the digging phase of any project where trees are involved. This ordinance only requires a weekly check in. This isn't enough.
>
> The ordinance uses the 'feasibility' word. Where feasible…If this has meaning besides personal discretion, I'd suggest that that be specifically spelled out in the ordinance. There shouldn't be presumptive language open to interpretation.
>
> I'd also mention that the City recently adopted The City Climate Action and Resiliency Resolution. It seems to me that we recognize that mature trees provide the greatest climate benefit, and it follows that protecting our tree canopy in an ordinance with teeth aligns with the climate resolution.
>
> I appreciate the hard work of the community who have worked on the Tree Ordinance.
> Thanks,
>
> Roddie Turner
> 452 Laurel Avenue
> 651-334-8844
> Sent from my iPad

From: Carolyn Will
To: Greg Weiner
Subject: Letter for TPO Ordinance 25-4
Date: Tuesday, July 7, 2026 2:50:51 PM

You don't often get email from carolyn@cwcommunications.info. Learn why this is important

Think Before You Click: This email originated **outside** our organization.

To Whom It May Concern:

I have been advocating for our City of Saint Paul to adopt a Tree Preservation Ordinance for several years. I am encouraged – maybe even hopeful – that this signals a culture change at city hall to one that truly is **a tree preservation first culture**.

How will this tree preservation ordinance be implemented and enforced. When I have watched trees on Grand Avenue get planted, then yanked out two years later for a school construction project, and then replanted, and then yanked again for Grand Ave reconstruction, it makes me wonder how the city will communicate this ordinance to all city departments, and even more importantly to all subcontractors the city hires to do the work.

I have talked with several other cities that have solid tree preservation cultures. **I have learned that they have a city arborist on site during the excavation phrase to watch and advise during the digging part if the project. This is an extremely important part of tree preservation**. It's not enough to have it on paper, or to have a financial penalty if the subcontractors damage trees. We want to save trees. Only an arborist would have the training and specialized knowledge to determine the roots to save, and perhaps which could be severed, when a project needs to dig in a certain direction. I consider this to be a crucial element of a good tree preservation ordinance. I hope you will include this in our Saint Paul plan.

Thank you,
Carolyn Will

1583 Summit Ave
Saint Paul, MN 55105
612-414-9661

PS Speaking of needing someone with knowledge on site. We have an extremely large Ash tree that we have been treating for more than 15 years. Last November 2025, on a Saturday, three Xcel trucks parked closed part of Snelling, and went to down cutting huge limbs on our Ash tree. They were clearing room around the power lines. BUT, it was a hatchet job- basically shaving half of the tree – creating a very lopsided tree. And I wondered if it would survive and it does not appear that it will. And this is a serious loss for our city. It was doing yeoman's work for carbon storage, absorbing air and noise pollution on Snelling Ave, filtering ground water and providing a huge canopy of shade. An arborist on site could have helped to determine the limbs that should have been saved that were not interfering with the power lines. Instead these subcontractors did what was easy and just cut straight down the east side of this tree, top to bottom. This was a travesty and should have been penalized.

From: S Mason
To: *CI-StPaul_Contact-Council
Cc: CouncilHearing (CI-StPaul); *CI-StPaul_Mayor
Subject: Public Comment in Support of Ord 25-04 Tree Preservation Ordinance
Date: Monday, July 6, 2026 5:29:51 PM

You don't often get email from sonjalmason@gmail.com. Learn why this is important

Mayor Her and Members of the City Council:

I am writing to express my support for the tree preservation ordinance (Ord 25-04 – Tree Preservation for City Sponsored Construction Projects), while also adding a concern that it does not go far enough to preserve and protect existing trees. The use of the term "feasible" in particular is concerning, as it sounds vague and is subject to interpretation. I live one block from Dale Street and am watching the bare minimum efforts at preserving the street trees.

I would like to underscore the importance of preserving (and not just replacing) trees of all sizes — medium, large, and super trees. Saplings do not convey the same benefits as mature trees. I am not going to take the time to enumerate all the economic, climate, and health benefits of trees, I know a Parks and Recreation committee will be more than aware of these myriad benefits. Instead, I wish emphasize the dire need for preservation over replacement. Replacement should be a last resort.

The DNR recently released an inventory of trees. The change in canopy in St Paul is sobering:

Over the course of 10 years, from 2013 to 2023 Saint Paul has seen a net gain in the number of trees, from 604,000 to 713,000, **but the tree canopy has declined from 43% to just 30%.**

The drop from 43% to 30% is an alarming decrease of nearly 1/3 in coverage. This is not just from Emerald Ash Borer (though cities like Bloomington treated and saved their ash trees, rather than undertaking a structured removal). It reveals a wanton disregard for existing trees. Medium trees grow into large trees, and large trees into super trees. This takes decades and decades. The DNR data shows both that we have taken trees for granted, and that we can't continue doing so. We have to change construction practices, re-think how we add density to still preserve open space, and breed a culture of tree preservation. This ordinance is a great first step.

Sincerely,
Sonja Mason
St Albans Street

images:
(1) street tree on Dale Street with collapsed fence and too small protection zone (May

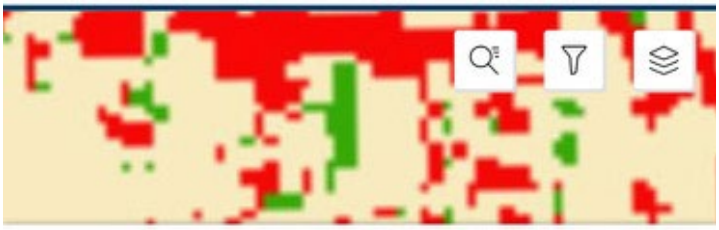
29 2026)
(2) screen capture of DNR website

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES TRUST FUND

Rapid Assessment Community Tree Report Viewer

Map | Table | About



Saint Paul Summary

County	Ramsey
Community	Saint Paul
2013 Street Tree Populations	604,000
2023 Street Tree Population	712,000
Street Tree Population Change	18%
2013 Percent Forest	43%
2023 Percent Forest	30%
Percent Forest Change	-13%

From: ROBERT MUSCHEWSKE
To: *CI-StPaul_Contact-Council
Subject: Tree Preservation Ordinance
Date: Tuesday, July 7, 2026 10:49:41 AM

You don't often get email from rmuschewske@comcast.net. Learn why this is important

Please pass the Tree Preservation Ordinance at your meeting today. Thank you to CM Noecker and the members of the committee that spent many hours in numerous meetings crafting an ordinance that will help preserve one of St. Paul's most valuable assets - its tree canopy.
Thank you,
Bob

Bob Muschewske
370 Summit Avenue
Saint Paul, MN 55102

rmuschewske@comcast.net
612-578-3635

From:	BRIDGET ALLAN ALES
To:	CouncilHearing (CI-StPaul)
Subject:	Ord 25-4 Support - with a point of concern & wonder; see #7
Date:	Tuesday, July 7, 2026 12:11:46 PM
Attachments:	Screen Shot 2026-05-26 at 2.31.06 PM.png

You don't often get email from bridgetaa@comcast.net. Learn why this is important

Dear City Council Members,

The Urban Forest:

As Council President Noecker says, with a Tree Preservation Ordinance, Trees will now have an "official" seat at the table.

Opting for Green Infrastructure via a strong Tree Preservation Ordinance is good for the City of Saint Paul.

I am particularly enthusiastic about the following: #(s) 1-6

My Concern, see #7

1) Economics: Access to Urban Tree Canopy offers citizens and visitors a chance to enjoy Nature in the City with the LOWEST BARRIER to entry. Thus spend money in St. Paul creating a "virtuous cycle" - Early planning/investment to preserve trees will have a compounding effect.

2) Health: Trees are the city's lungs. Preserving trees to keep achieve optimal Urban Tree Canopy (UTC) is good for ALL citizens, in ALL neighborhoods.

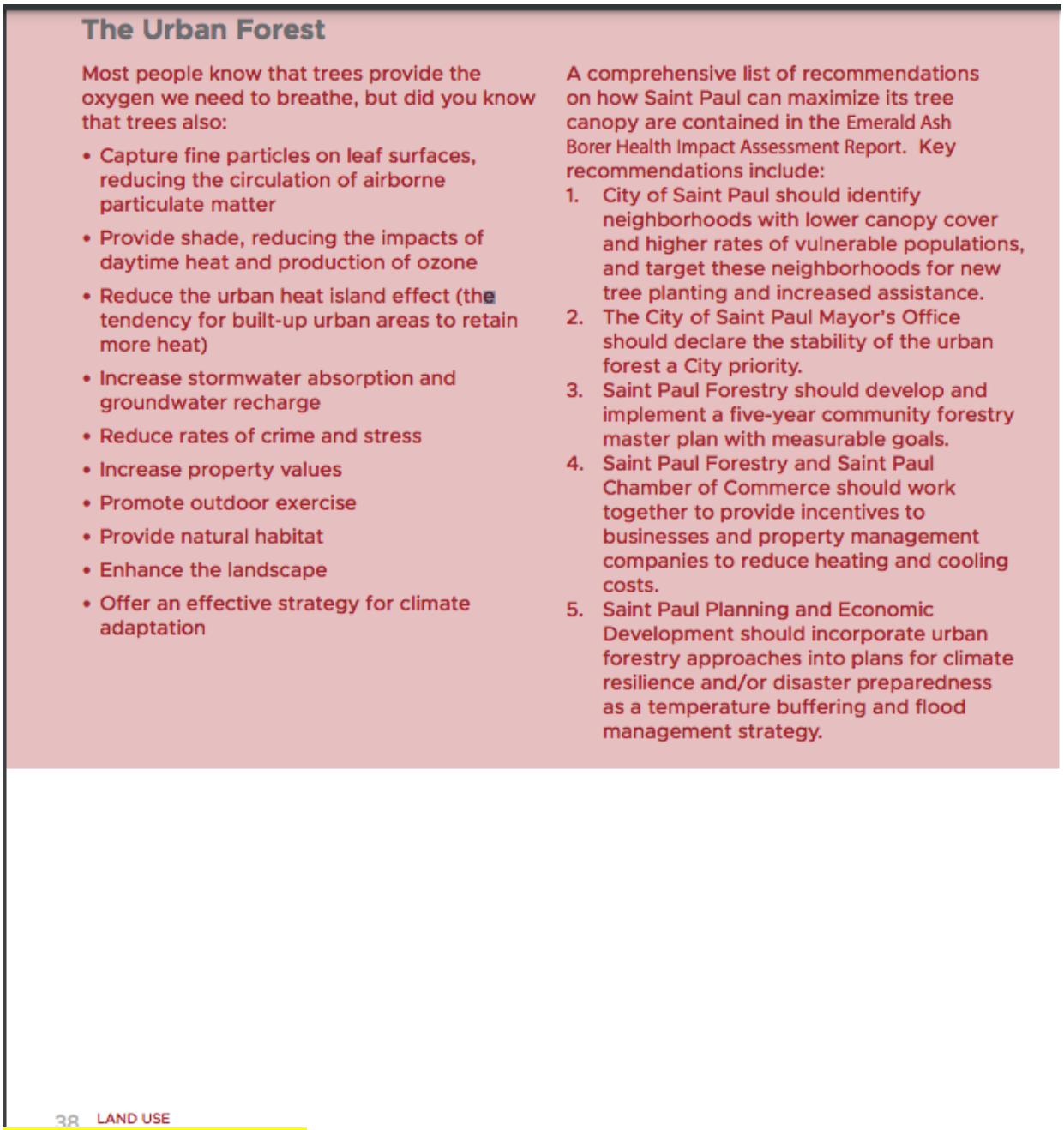
3) Civic Pride: Preserving Trees, and doing so when it is both easy and challenging, will be a hallmark of Saint Paul's commitment to thoughtful City Planning and Creativity. City Staff spent many hours working with the Public Input Group on both the TPO and SOPs. As a member of the Public Interest Group, the sessions were full of thoughtful dialogue.

4) Verified Tree Impacts confirmed before Presenting Design Options. Particularly enthusiastic to see a Project timetable calls for a Certified Arborist at the start of a project. Verified Tree Impacts will be documented in the earliest stages for Public Design Presentations and Comments.

5) Option to incorporate new Preservation Techniques/Equipment built into SOPs and ANSI 300 Standards.

6) The City Comprehensive Plan Supports Tree Preservation - a focus on The Urban Forest is a unifying theme.

p. 38 of 2040 St. Paul Comprehensive Plan/LAND USE



The Urban Forest

Most people know that trees provide the oxygen we need to breathe, but did you know that trees also:

- Capture fine particles on leaf surfaces, reducing the circulation of airborne particulate matter
- Provide shade, reducing the impacts of daytime heat and production of ozone
- Reduce the urban heat island effect (the tendency for built-up urban areas to retain more heat)
- Increase stormwater absorption and groundwater recharge
- Reduce rates of crime and stress
- Increase property values
- Promote outdoor exercise
- Provide natural habitat
- Enhance the landscape
- Offer an effective strategy for climate adaptation

A comprehensive list of recommendations on how Saint Paul can maximize its tree canopy are contained in the Emerald Ash Borer Health Impact Assessment Report. Key recommendations include:

1. City of Saint Paul should identify neighborhoods with lower canopy cover and higher rates of vulnerable populations, and target these neighborhoods for new tree planting and increased assistance.
2. The City of Saint Paul Mayor's Office should declare the stability of the urban forest a City priority.
3. Saint Paul Forestry should develop and implement a five-year community forestry master plan with measurable goals.
4. Saint Paul Forestry and Saint Paul Chamber of Commerce should work together to provide incentives to businesses and property management companies to reduce heating and cooling costs.
5. Saint Paul Planning and Economic Development should incorporate urban forestry approaches into plans for climate resilience and/or disaster preparedness as a temperature buffering and flood management strategy.

38 LAND USE

NOW FOR THE CONCERN

7) In my discussions with the Community of Tree Preservation supporters:

- The phrase "where feasible" is still a question/ concern.
- Will "where feasible" include design elements that could be altered or removed to preserve trees? What is the hierarchy? Who will decide?

Respectfully submitted.

Bridget Allan Ales
Member of the Tree Preservation Organization Public Input Group
715 Linwood Avenue, St. Paul, MN 55105
651-338-4007 (mobile)
BridgetAA@comcast.net

From: grtodd@comcast.net
To: CouncilHearing (CI-StPaul)
Subject: Ord 25-4 - Tree Preservation for City Sponsored Construction Projects
Date: Tuesday, July 7, 2026 11:28:04 AM

You don't often get email from grtodd@comcast.net. Learn why this is important

I am writing to comment on Ordinance 25-4 Tree Preservation for City Sponsored Construction Projects. First, I want to say thank you. It is evident that a tremendous amount of work went into developing this ordinance. It is important to get it right so that it can be enforceable and comprehensive rather than just a token to preservation in name only.

I have a couple of questions.

Strength to alter designs

- Will the ordinance be strong enough to force alternative designs and methods to be chosen, especially with discretionary elements of projects, like bike trails, where clear alternatives exist?

Or

- Will proposed project designs over-rule alternatives and tree preservation will only occur 'if feasible' or if it 'doesn't prohibit construction activity'?

Enforcement and oversight

- Will the City be solely reliant on contractor reports and meetings or are there requirements for on-site review of ongoing construction to enforce this ordinance?

Saint Paul's tree canopy is a major attraction that draws people to our city. We want this ordinance to answer the question that people always ask when reading about another bunch of trees being removed for some construction project. 'How many lost trees is too many?' I understand that tree loss occurs in construction, but alternative designs and techniques need to be chosen that reduce the number of trees lost, rather than only attempting to preserve the ones that remain. Contractors will invariably choose the least expensive path.

Tree replanting is important, but replanting is not preservation. It takes decades for a tree to grow back to the point where it can deliver the benefits that a mature delivers to us today. So, my request is that you help make sure that this ordinance is as strong as it can be and that it is enforced by consistent oversight. Can you require periodic reporting to the City Council on the effectiveness of this new ordinance? It would be interesting to see how designs were altered, alternatives chosen and number of trees preserved based on the application of this ordinance.

Thank you.
GRT

Gary R. Todd
682 Summit Ave
St. Paul, MN 55105
grtodd@comcast.net
651-470-4720

"... the sum of us can accomplish far more than just some of us."

THE SUM OF US by Heather McGhee

From: Noah DeVlaminck
To: CouncilHearing (CI-StPaul)
Subject: Support for Ord 25-4 (Tree Preservation Ordinance)
Date: Tuesday, June 30, 2026 2:50:01 PM
Attachments: image.png

You don't often get email from noah.devlaminck@treetrust.org. Learn why this is important

To Council President and Council Members,

I am writing in strong support of Ordinance 25-4, the Tree Preservation Ordinance. As a member of the public input group, an urban forestry professional, and a St Paul resident, this kind of ordinance is greatly needed. The new ordinance will provide a framework for how the city should approach projects and also allow the city to hold contractors accountable.

There are a few shortcomings of the ordinance that might hopefully be addressed in future SOPs or ordinances:

- The current ordinance and SOPs instruct that if there is not enough space, trees may be planted in other areas of the city at forestry's discretion. I think it would be helpful to establish priority areas or using existing equity mapping tools and make it easily accessible to the public. That would help inform where tree replanting is prioritized and ensure transparency.
- The current ordinance does not address private development that has impacts on the boulevard. For example, a new build that must remove or work around existing boulevard trees.
- The current ordinance also does not address removals on private property. This was a point of contention within the PIG but an important consideration if increasing the city's canopy cover is the ultimate goal. Private property encompasses a significantly larger proportion of the canopy, thus, the largest opportunity to maintain or add canopy cover. Private property tree ordinances are common in many cities and might be triggered by the permitting process or more broadly anytime a private tree is removed. There are local examples of this in Edina, Maplewood, Wayzata, Minnetonka, and soon Minneapolis. In any case, this could be a future opportunity to consider.

Thank you all for your continued attention to this issue, and the continued dedication from Megan Jekot to integrate all of the input from the city and stakeholders!

Kindly,

Noah De Vlaminck

Community Forestry Private Property Coordinator
ISA Certified Arborist MN-5122A & TRAQ
1419 Energy Park Dr., Saint Paul, MN 55108
Cell 651.358.0488 | Main 952.767.3880

Hold the Date for our Tree Trust at 50 Celebration on September 12, 2026

Get Involved: Join Our Email List | Facebook | Instagram | Twitter | LinkedIn

From: Marilyn Bach
To: contact-council@ci.st.paul.mn.us
Cc: CouncilHearing (CI-StPaul)
Subject: Fwd: ORD 25-4 Tree Preservation for City Sponsored Construction Projects.
Date: Monday, July 6, 2026 8:43:30 PM

You don't often get email from marilynbach123@gmail.com. Learn why this is important

Marilyn L. Bach
marilynbach123@gmail.com
c: 612-423-2154
h: 651-290-2604

Begin forwarded message:

From: Marilyn Bach <marilynbach123@gmail.com>
Subject: ORD 25-4 Tree Preservation for City Sponsored Construction Projects.
Date: July 6, 2026 at 8:16:06 PM CDT
To: contact-council@ci.st.paul.mn.us

:'ord25-4 **Tree Preservation for City Sponsored Construction Projects.**

I am writing to echo and support Gary Todd's statement (*included below*) regarding —Ord 25-4Tree Preservation for City Sponsored Construction Projects.

I appreciate and thank those who put a great deal of work into the development of this ordinance.
My major concern is the issue of enforcement and oversight —the ‘ feasibility ’statement — that the ‘ chain ‘ of involved parties not be allowed to negate the necessity to protect trees .
I have studied the tree ordinances of other cities - proper enforcement and the onsite involvement of arborists is key to successful tree preservation.
Tree replanting is NOT preservation. A sapling does NOT provide the benefits of a mature tree.

Marilyn Bach, Ph.D
9 Saint Albans Street South
Saint Paul, MN 55105

For the record —statement by Gary Todd that I endorse :

Fron Gary Todd :
I am writing in reference to Res 26-08 (Order 25-4)– Tree Preservation for City Sponsored Construction Projects.

First, I want to say thank you. It is evident that a tremendous amount of work went into developing this ordinance. It is important to get it right so that it can be enforceable and comprehensive rather than just a token to preservation in name only.

I have a couple of questions.

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to grow back to the point where it can deliver the benefits that a mature delivers to us today. So, my request is that you help make sure that this ordinance is as strong as it can be and that it is enforced by consistent oversight.

Thank you.
GRT

Marilyn L. Bach
marilynbach123@gmail.com
c: 612-423-2154
h: 651-290-2604