

Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation (DNRC)

2018 Urban Forestry Grant Application – City of Red Lodge Final Narrative

Red Lodge utilized the Urban and Community Forestry Program Development grant for the sixth year in a row. In 5 out of 6 of these years, this grant funding has been used to provide cost-share trees to residents and businesses to grow the city's urban forest (grant funding was used in 2017 to update the city's Urban Forestry Management Plan). This has been a popular program and has had a very positive impact on the appearance of our streets and the health of our urban forest. For these reasons, the city has made it a priority to continue this program despite the significant cuts to the budget of the Parks, Trees, and Recreation Board. We planted 25 trees in 2013, 2014, and 2015, 15 trees in 2016, and 10 trees in 2017 and 2018. This brings the total number of trees in the city from the cost-share program to 110 over the past six years.

In the summer of 2017, Red Lodge updated its tree inventory using UCF funds. The updated tree inventory and accompanying Urban Forestry Management Plan were approved in March of 2018. As a result of the reduced budget for 2018, professional fertilization and pruning of past cost-share trees was not possible. This shortfall was partially made up by volunteers: community members pruned the younger trees after being recruited and trained by Parks, Trees, and Recreation Board member Theresa Whistler. We did spend \$1,460 spraying for pine weevils in 3 of the city parks with sizeable populations of conifers.

The 10 trees were split between the central business district and residential areas that currently lack trees. The following trees were planted this year as part of the program: (2) Prairiefire Flowering Crabapple, (4) Green Mountain Maple, (2) Canada Red Chokecherry, (1) Harvest Gold Linden, (1) Spring Snow Flowering Crabapple. Contractor Mike Taylor planted the trees at a cost of \$130 per tree. The contractor was responsible for contacting landowners, utility locates, digging holes, tree placement, staking trees, and submitting a list of where every type of tree was placed.

