

1000 Trees for 100 years

The anniversary is over but I think this is still a good idea



Summary

Rotary has a long tradition of contributing to the community and of attacking the issues of the day. We want to continue that legacy a project that will help

- beautify the community,
- improve the environment,
- help with social justice, climate change especially affects those with less means,
- support those with less means,
- Set an example for our kids and other clubs.

A tree planting program can achieve these goals.

Background / Challenge

150 years ago Northfield and the rest of America was about half forested lands, wildlife proliferated and global warming was not a threat. Now over 90% of the trees have been cleared, the population of mammals have decreased by 90% for 90% of the species, and we are accelerating toward higher CO2 levels and higher temperatures. Trees can help address these challenges.

Vision / Goal

Looking forward in 5 years, this could be the result:

Northfield will have planted XXX trees as part of a celebration for their 100 yr anniversary. The trees were planted throughout the city and surrounding area and have helped create a tree canopy. The city parks, schools grounds and boulevards are being lined with trees. Before there was a decrease in trees due to the Ash borer, but now we have 3x as many trees as before.

And in yards -- especially of those people that don't have the means or gumption to plant trees themselves -- Rotary helped plant trees. Traditionally lower income areas have fewer trees and are hotter, not in Northfield.

Along country roads Northfield is looking more and more like Tuscany or Ireland, with rolling fields and tree lined roads. This has attracted bikers and tourists. And we have more beautiful, clean waterways that meander through forested areas. By teaming with Clean River Partners, the Sierra club, Minnesota's DNR and others, critical areas along the Cannon River and its tributaries have become more forested. This land acts as a natural filter for agricultural runoff and pollution. And it provides more space for wildlife.

Continuing in the Spirit of Rotary

Rotary has taken on impactful projects, where focused effort can go a long way. Where we can leverage our own resources and those of others to build a better world. This project would carry on that tradition.

- Just as water treatment and vaccines help communities live healthier lives, more trees will bring natural air conditioning/cooling, more O2, less Co2, more beauty and better mental health.
- Just as RCAT serves to promote more sustainable living, a 100k tree project will both improve our community and serve as an example. We are not only taking action, our action is building values.
- Just as Rotary's exchange student program engages the schools, we will have school kids help plant the trees.

- Just as our meetings and fundraisers engage the town, nonprofit organizations and business, a large-scale tree planting project would engage them to help plan and implement it. The businesses would support it by adding more trees to their land and financially support it. There are many organizations that are emphasizing ESG and Carbon offsets. This is a sign of a demand and Rotary could be a gear in this larger system.

Timeline / Steps

Getting input, refining, communicating - 1Q2026 to 2Q2026

- Incorporate feedback from potential partner organizations: DNR, City, Schools, .**
- Identify sources and amounts of funding: State, Carbon offset programs**
- Estimate costs and resource needs**
- Identify challenges and ways to address them**
- Prioritize locations for planting trees; have a detailed specific list**
- Publicize kick-off and planning: This is not an isolated effort, it is all about values and tapping into the community Market via City, Rotary, Funeral Homes, School, etc

Plant! Engage!

- Start with highly visible locations: schools, parks, boulevards, low income housing, bike trails,
 - **Get a Sponsor for Tree(s) in a particular spot**
 - **Coordinate with City / School, home owner, Stake out the area, plan the planting**
 - **Buy the Trees: From City, Nursery, etc.** typically \$100 to \$400.
Of course need to match right tree with the right place
 - **Plant the Trees**
 - **Add Plaques or memoriums**
 - **Follow up to check / water?**
 - **Replacement Approach?**
- Start by including community members and students in the planting. This builds alignment and momentum.
- Secure land for reforestation along waterways and existing parks
- Maintain blog, web page and communication plan our side
- Over the course of a few years there will be a need for some tree replacement

Consider further phases

- ➔ Reforestation, more trees, working with other clubs, Internationally
- ➔ Refine process
- ➔ Secure deals more for funding with carbon offset programs, reforestation programs, governmental organizations and companies
- ➔ Future Goals / Rallying mottos!

Future Opportunities and Challenges

Opportunities and Challenges	Actions	Partners supporting & benefiting
<p>Dramatic decrease in forest and space for animals,</p> <p>Water quality along rivers and streams being hurt by ag runoff</p> <p>Need for more forested recreation area</p>	<p>Coordinate the purchase of targeted land along cannon river trail and other waterways for reforestation to help naturally clean the water and support wildlife</p> <p>Expand the Nerstrand Big Woods</p>	<p>Clear River Partners</p> <p>National Eagles Center</p> <p>Nerstrand Big Woods</p> <p>Sierra Club</p> <p>Rice County</p>
<p>Need for more trees to offset CO2 emissions</p> <p>Some Carbon offset programs promise more than they provide</p>	<p>Plant more trees and tap into the CO2 credit market for support</p> <p>Rotary's trusted brand and traditions ensure the carbon offsets provide the levels expected</p>	<p>Delta Airlines, NativeEnergy, Carbon offset companies</p>
<p>Less appealing environments:</p> <p>People avoid hot sunny spots in parks.</p> <p>Towns are becoming hot desolate suburbs of pavement.</p> <p>Bike paths in the sun are not appealing</p> <p>The heat effect will become more and more of a challenge with each year</p>	<p>Plant trees throughout the community and parks, along sports fields, streets, and around schools.</p> <p>As the heat becomes more of an issue the trees we plant will grow.</p> <p>Plant trees along roads, the Mills Town Trail and the Sakatah Singing Hills State Trail</p>	<p>Rotary clubs and towns in Southern Minnesota</p> <p>Northfield Parks Department</p> <p>Northfield School District</p> <p>Cannon River Velo Club</p> <p>Downtown Bicycles, Farmstead Bike Shop</p>
<p>Climate change, forest fires and invasive bugs are killing millions of existing trees. We not only need more, we need to plan for losing millions that we currently have</p>	<p>Planting more trees, especially ones that can live with a warming Minnesota and are resistant to invasive bugs</p>	<p>Northfield ESG</p> <p>US Parks Service</p> <p>Minnesota DNR</p>
<p>Getting credit for efforts is important</p> <p>Many people remember loved ones with trees</p>	<p>Include markers that</p> <p>Promote a program for sponsoring trees with a memorial marker (as is done in NFLD parks today)</p>	

REFERENCE

Current Dynamics

Locations to Buy

[Trees | Northfield, MN - Official Website](#)

[Northfield, Minnesota Tree Farm | Bridgewater Tree Farms, Inc](#)

[Home - Knechts Nurseries & Landscaping](#)

[tree nursery – Bing-kartor](#)