**Reforest Redwood Falls: Reclaiming the Canopy, One Tree at a Time**

Redwood Falls has long been known for its picturesque parks, leafy boulevards, and vibrant natural beauty. But beneath the surface of our tree-lined streets, an ecological crisis is quietly unfolding. The Emerald Ash Borer, a destructive and invasive insect, is expected to kill every ash tree in Redwood Falls over the next five years. That means more than 10,000 trees, or roughly 30 percent of the city’s entire canopy, will be lost.

In response, four community members — Adrienne Danielson, John Buckley, Don Hazen, and John Woodash — have come together to launch Reforest Redwood Falls. This new initiative is aimed at restoring the city’s urban forest. What started as a shared concern while serving on the City’s Tree Board has grown into a grassroots movement with a clear purpose: to replant the trees we are losing and to build back a canopy that is even stronger and more diverse than before.

“We love trees and we love Redwood Falls,” said the group. “When we realized how serious the impact of the Ash Borer would be, we knew we had to do something.”

Realizing that city resources alone would not be enough to meet the challenge, the group formed a nonprofit fund under the Redwood Area Communities Foundation. This partnership allows them to raise and distribute tax-deductible donations specifically for planting new trees in Redwood Falls parks, boulevards, and other public spaces.

The group is focused not just on replacing trees, but on planting smarter. They have committed to introducing up to twenty different species of trees throughout the city to prevent this kind of devastation from happening again. The reforestation plans will take into account the shade needs, soil conditions, and existing vegetation in each area. Trees being considered include elms, hackberries, lindens, locusts, maples, oaks, and crab apples.

Thanks to early donations and a growing wave of local support, Knollwood Park has already been replanted as of June 6. A huge first accomplishment for Reforest Redwood Falls!

As the group continues its mission, they are reaching out to residents, businesses, and community groups who want to be part of rebuilding the city’s tree canopy. Donations of any size are welcome, and volunteers interested in helping with outreach or planting are encouraged to get involved.

“We envision a future where Redwood Falls has a flourishing, diverse tree canopy that offers shade, beauty, and environmental benefits for generations to come. We want our city to not only recover, but to thrive,” they shared.

**How to Help**  
To support Reforest Redwood Falls, donations can be made in two ways:

* **Online**: Visit [www.radc.org](https://www.radc.org), go to the “Redwood Area Communities Foundation”, click the DONATE button, and under “Add dedication to your donation,” type "Reforest Redwood" in the Name of Addressee field.
* **By Mail**: Send a check payable to Reforest Redwood Falls to:  
  Redwood Area Communities Foundation  
  c/o Reforest Redwood Falls  
  P.O. Box 481  
  Redwood Falls, MN 56283

To volunteer or learn more, contact Adrienne Danielson at [**adriennejune@yahoo.com**](mailto:adriennejune@yahoo.com).

The work is just beginning, but with the support of the community, the future of Redwood Falls is already looking greener.

If you have a passion project of your own, an idea to improve our community, or simply want to help make a difference, the **Redwood Area Communities Foundation** is here to support you. Whether it's environmental efforts, youth programming, the arts, or beyond, RACF partners with individuals and groups to help bring meaningful projects to life. To learn more, visit [www.radc.org](https://www.radc.org) or contact the foundation directly to explore how you can get involved.