



FROM THE CITY OF MANITOWOC

# PRESS RELEASE

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## For Immediate Release

**Date:** March 2, 2021  
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### CITY OF MANITOWOC PARKS DIVISION RECEIVES \$500 ATC GRANT

Recently, the City of Manitowoc received a \$500 Community Planting Program Grant from the American Transmission Corporation (ATC).

“We’re excited to plant trees at Red Arrow Park this summer,” said City of Manitowoc Forester Alvin Rehme. “With this grant from ATC, we’ll increase the diversity our tree population, as well as provide shade and natural beauty within the park.” Twenty one ash trees infected with the Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) beetle were removed from the park in the last few months.

“We recognize that trees and vegetation are among the features that make communities special places for residents and visitors,” said ATC Vegetation Management Manager Michelle Stokes. “While we can’t allow trees or tall-growing vegetation in our rights-of-way, ATC’s Community Planting Program enables us to encourage and support communities to plant trees and vegetation that will beautify communities in a way that doesn’t compromise the safety and reliability of the electric transmission system.”

The Community Planting Program provides financial support to eligible cities, villages, towns, counties and tribes in ATC’s service area for planting projects on public property, outside transmission line rights-of-way. Program funds can be used to plant trees and other tall-growing vegetation outside the transmission line rights-of-way. ATC has awarded more than 265 communities and organizations with funds totaling nearly \$500,000 since 2013.

ATC’s Pollinator Habitat Program, which provides funding for site preparation; purchasing seed, plugs or plants; labor and installation; or other activities to establish quality pollinator habitat. Unlike the Community Planting Program, the Pollinator Habitat Program promotes planting low-growing vegetation within a transmission line right-of-way. It is open to cities, villages, towns, counties and tribes within ATC’s service area, as well as to entities that allow public access to ATC rights-of-way (e.g., nature preserves, non-profits or public land managers).

Both the Community Planting Program and Pollinator Habitat Program are part of ATC's Grow Smart® initiative, which advocates for and provides suggestions of low-growing, compatible vegetation that can be planted in transmission line rights-of-way.

To qualify for either program, communities must commit that all current and future planting plans and urban forestry activities near high-voltage electric transmission lines will comply with ATC's maintenance standards. Cities, villages, towns, counties and tribes within ATC's service area are eligible to apply for funding through the Community Planting Program. The Pollinator Habitat Program also is open to cities, villages, towns, counties and tribes within ATC's service area, as well as to entities that allow public access to ATC rights-of-way (e.g. nature preserves, non-profits or public land managers).

ATC accepts applications from July 1 through Sept. 30, and award recipients are selected and notified by the end of the year. Awards for both programs range from \$100 to \$5,000. Additional information and program applications can be found at [atc-GrowSmart.com](http://atc-GrowSmart.com).

For additional information, contact the City of Manitowoc Parks Division at (920) 686-3580 or visit the City's website at [www.manitowoc.org](http://www.manitowoc.org). Sign up for News Flash and/or Emergency Alert texts or e-mails about activities in the City by going to [www.manitowoc.org](http://www.manitowoc.org). Click on the Notify Me button and follow the instructions.

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Formed in 2001 as the nation's first multi-state transmission-only utility, American Transmission Co. is a Wisconsin-based company that owns and operates 9,921 miles of electric transmission lines and 577 substations in portions of Wisconsin, Michigan, Minnesota and Illinois. Our transmission network enables the movement of electricity produced from all forms of generation resources to areas where it is needed – helping to keep the lights on, businesses running and communities strong. Visit our website at [www.atcllc.com](http://www.atcllc.com).

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