



REQUEST FOR INFORMATION

For

Urban Wood Transport & Utilization

Responses Due by 4:00 pm CST, Friday, February 28th, 2025

ISSUED BY:
Randy Krouse
Forestry Services Manager
City of Milwaukee

February 12, 2025

1.0 Introduction

The City of Milwaukee's Department of Public Works Forestry Services Division (DPW Forestry) is issuing this Request for Information (RFI) to gather current market information and assess contractor capacity for the transportation and utilization of the City of Milwaukee's urban wood.

1.1 Intent of the RFI

Sawmill/Dry Kiln Operators and other Wood Products Producers ("Respondents") are strongly encouraged to respond to this RFI. The information received in response to this RFI will help determine the transportation and utilization of the urban wood produced by DPW Forestry.

This is not a solicitation for quotations, bids or proposals. No contract award will result from this RFI. The Department may contact Respondents, at its sole discretion, for additional information. The Department shall not be obligated to contact any Respondent, to purchase goods or services related to this RFI from any Respondent, or to use the content of any response in a future RFP. Response to this RFI is NOT mandatory to be considered for any future solicitation of transportation services or utilization of DPW Forestry produced wood. The Department will determine, in its sole discretion, whether to proceed with a solicitation following the RFI. It is entirely the Respondent's responsibility to remain informed of the City's issuance of any future solicitations. The City assumes no liability for failure of Respondents to obtain and respond to any such solicitation.

1.2 Purpose

The Department's purpose in issuing this RFI is to obtain information to assist Department leadership in understanding the current market demand for urban wood and the capacity of Respondents to transport and utilize the large quantities of urban wood produced daily by DPW Forestry crews. The main part of the mission of DPW Forestry is to maintain and enhance the safety of the public where City managed trees are concerned. DPW Forestry removes hazardous "street trees" (trees between the curb and sidewalk) daily. In order to continue to provide this mission driven, critical service for the citizens of the City,

the Department needs to generate and maintain open spaces in each DPW Forestry district yard for material handling to make the removal process viable and efficient.

Through this RFI, the City wishes to obtain information from Respondents that can assist the City to:

- Determine if there is currently a market for the City's urban wood supply.
- If a market does exist, determine the wholesale value of the City's urban wood supply.
- Determine if there is contractor or other potential collaborator demand for this product and their capacity to promptly transport the City's urban wood away from our district yards.

2.0 Background

DPW Forestry is charged with the care and maintenance of approximately 195,000 street and boulevard trees throughout the City of Milwaukee. The vast majority of these trees are hardwood species. The majority species include maple, ash, honeylocust, lindens and oak. In 2010, DPW Forestry made a paradigm shift from viewing urban wood as waste to seeing it as the resource it is. For years previously, the City paid to haul urban wood debris to landfills for disposal. As the cost of landfill tipping fees were rapidly rising, the City had to find a different way of dealing with its urban wood debris. Simultaneously, the urban wood movement was taking off. DPW Forestry joined in the quest of finding alternatives for urban wood utilization. The Department began shipping our urban wood to a sawmill/dry kiln/wood products processor where they determine the best and highest use of each log. The Department has been asked to explore if there are other alternatives to the transportation and utilization services currently in place.

2.1 Business Processes

Our current tree removal process is that our DPW Forestry crews "top out" a tree by removing all of the branches first. The branches are then put through a

chipper. The larger pieces of wood that will not fit through our chippers (usually 14"+ in diameter) are bucked up and placed in one of our Prentice Loaders (PLs) for transport back to their district yard. Once in the district yard, the urban wood is loaded by our PLs into 30-yard metal boxes provided by the current contractor. When the boxes are full, staff in each yard contacts the contractor for pick up. The contractor then transports the urban wood (mostly trunk wood) from each of our 3 district yards (6732 N Industrial Rd, 5230 W State St, 2024 W Holt St) to a sawmill/wood processor. Our district yards are small and at most can only hold three 30-yard boxes at a time. Prompt removal and transport of the boxes is essential. At times, our crews in each district yard can fill two to three boxes per day. It is not efficient for us to handle the wood more than twice; therefore, it is necessary to have the full boxes replaced within 24 hours.

The majority of urban logs produced by DPW Forestry crews range in length from 4-6 feet. Please bear in mind that approximately 5% of the City's urban logs also contain metal.

In 2023, the City contractor transported 184 boxes with a weight of 2,208 tons.

The average number of boxes that were transported annually from 2021 to 2023 was 229, at an annual average of 2,652 tons of wood.

DPW Forestry remains committed to seeing that the urban wood produced by the City is being utilized to its best and highest use. It would be a welcome and exciting initiative if some of our urban wood could be utilized in City of Milwaukee community building projects.

3.0 Information Requested

The City seeks information from Respondents to assist in determining if there is:

- A current market for and the approximate wholesale value of the City's urban wood?
- Contractor or collaborator capacity to process this very large amount of urban wood? If so, what type of end products would you produce?
- Contractor or collaborator capacity to promptly pick up and transport this amount of wood off site.

4.0 Instructions to Respondents

4.1 Response Address and Due Date

Responses are to be submitted via email to Randy Krouse at:
Randy.Krouse@milwaukee.gov

Response email should include the subject line:
"Request for Information: Urban Wood"

Responses are due by 4:00 pm CST, Friday, February 28th, 2025.

4.2 Submittal of Pre-Response Questions

Prospective respondents are requested to submit any questions no later than
4:00 pm CST on Wednesday, February 19th, 2025 to Randy Krouse via email at:
Randy.Krouse@milwaukee.gov and Dannell Vance at dmvance@milwaukee.gov

Contact Information

Questions regarding this RFI should be submitted to:

Randy Krouse
Forestry Services Manager

Email: Randy.Krouse@milwaukee.gov

Phone: 414-286-8499