



February 1<sup>st</sup>, 2018

To whom it may concern,

The intent of this letter is to provide affirmation of a recent sustainability project involving the University of Wisconsin-River Falls for the Sustainability, Tracking, Assessment & Rating system. In the Spring of 2017 the City of River Falls and the University of Wisconsin-River Falls collaborated by installing a community gravel tree bed located at Lab Farm 1 on the University of Wisconsin-River Falls campus.

Installation of this community gravel tree bed allows the City to plant a greater diversity of tree species throughout the community at a reduced cost. The bare root trees installed in the gravel tree bed develop an extensive fibrous root system that reduces transplant stress and the trees establish much quicker than a typical balled and burlap or containerized tree. This project has been instrumental in making the City's tree planting program more sustainable and efficient.

The establishment of the gravel tree bed also allows for community involvement and education of sustainability. The gravel tree bed has opened many opportunities for events such as community tree sales and volunteer efforts in tree planting.

We appreciate the University's commitment to this project and we continue to look for finding innovative ways to utilize the community gravel tree bed in the future.

If you have any further questions please don't hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Nathan Croes'.

Nathan Croes - City Forester - City of River Falls

