

## TREE INVENTORIES CONDUCTED IN MEQUON

Mequon, June 30, 2011 - Davey Resource Group, a division of The Davey Tree Expert Company, has been selected by the City of Mequon to conduct an inventory and assessment of nearly 9,000 trees and potential planting sites on public streets. The project is part of on-going efforts within Mequon to better manage trees, minimize the effects of future storm damage, and assure the community has a healthy, sustainable urban forest.

An International Society of Arboriculture *Certified Arborist*, from the urban forestry consulting company is in the city to inspect and map all the public trees. The arborist will be assessing the condition and stability of each tree, looking for any damaged or dead material to be removed, and evaluating any signs of decay or disease.

Davey Resource Group was selected by the City after they received a grant from the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources Community and Urban Forestry program.

"Reducing risk and being prepared for emerald ash borer are the primary objectives in completing these assessments," said Ryan Gustafson, Davey's urban forestry expert, who is inventorying the trees in Mequon. "We will identify any pruning, removals or planting needs in addition to providing detailed computer mapping of all the trees to aid the City in the future management of their urban forest resources."

Davey's foresters will use handheld computers loaded with information and aerial photographs from existing Geographic Information System (GIS) to mark the location and record specific details of each of the trees. The work is scheduled to begin July 12<sup>th</sup> through early August.

After the field work is complete, the City will have its inventory data analyzed by Davey's urban foresters and the results will be used in the creation of a multi-year Urban Forest Management Plan. "We look forward to receiving this professional plan," said Ken Baker, the City Forester. "The Plan will make and prioritize tree maintenance and planting recommendations, will include a budget for all activities, and contain suggestions for the overall improvement of the City's urban forest management program."

"In addition to the benefit of immediate safety risk reduction, this comprehensive inventory of our public trees will provide information to maximize the long-term benefits of the urban forest for increasing the quality of life in our community," Baker said. "Trees are vital in absorbing air pollution, reducing stormwater problems, and providing shade and energy conservation, just to mention a few of the roles they play and important benefits they provide to our city."

For more information about this important project, people are encouraged to contact Ken Baker by calling 262-512-1297.