

# Iowa Urban and Community Forestry Program

## Sustainable Community Forestry Assistance And Training Grant

### Explanation and Instructions

80 communities in Iowa are over 5,000 in population and are the focus of this grant. Most of these communities do not have dedicated forestry personnel or expertise, but may have staff that can be trained in basic tree id, as well as proper tree planting and maintenance.

This U.S. Forest Service grant is intended to assist communities with population greater than 5,000\* by training and educating city staff, tree board members, and active community members in order to enable each community to develop and maintain a sustainable forestry program.

10 communities will be selected per year, for a total of 20 communities over the two-year life of the grant.

Each community that is accepted into the program will have intensive training (40 hours) by a team consisting of DNR staff (including District Forester, Urban Team Members, and Forest Health Specialist) and representatives from the Iowa Arborist Association and the Iowa Urban Tree Council, in the following:

- Tree Identification
  - Tree id apps and handbooks will be provided, with training for ID apps
- Technology training – i-tree canopy, i-tree mobile data collection, i-tree design, etc.
- Tree Health
  - Current Forest Pests will be covered, highlights include recognizing EAB and ALB signs and symptoms and “first detector” training
- Tree Inventory
  - A community team will be trained to identify and inventory all public trees in the community. DNR staff will spend two days inventory time with the community-trained members to insure accuracy.
  - Risk tree assessment methods will be covered as part of tree inventory training
- Tree Planting
  - Current research and techniques will be taught, emphasizing planting depth, preventing encircling roots, watering, mulching, selecting healthy stock, and species diversity. A minimum of 10 landscape trees will be planted on public property as part of the grant to insure all community participants are trained.
- Pruning & Maintenance
  - Planning a young tree and corrective pruning schedule, and showing proper pruning techniques
- Benefits of Urban Trees
- Tree Ordinances
  - Creating and/or modifying tree ordinances to encourage increasing the urban tree canopy cover and tree health of the community and improving the species composition
- Community Outreach
  - Developing a volunteer group to carry out tree planting and maintenance activities

Some training will be hands-on and in person, while some will be i-tree (or other) webinars, workshops, and field days.

\*communities less than 5,000 in population that are identified as “priority communities” in Iowa’s Forest Action Plan are also eligible to apply

In addition to the above training provided to the community, the following will be included in the grant program:

- DNR will provide an Urban Forest Management Plan (based on the community tree inventory data), which provides canopy goals, recommended species for planting, and EAB preparedness.
- DNR Forestry will assist in coordinating 1 volunteer training and tree planting event (10-50 trees using Trees For Kids funding and specifications), and 1 volunteer training and work day event (pruning, watering, mulching, and monitoring existing trees) for each community.
- Trained community members will also be invited to additional, ongoing educational opportunities offered by different organizations throughout the state.

Communities will apply to be part of the grant program, and will be selected based on the following criteria:

- Stated need for urban forestry training and assistance
- Time and staff (may include tree board, community arborists, developers) commitment to training and ongoing forestry efforts for at least a 2 year period, and a stated ongoing commitment to community forestry – minimum of 3 participants for 40 hours of training
- Budget of at least \$1.00 per capita for tree maintenance and planting (not including removals)
- Desired goals to prepare for or manage Emerald Ash Borer and increase urban tree canopy and diversity
- The city must allow trees to be planted on street right-of way areas, or express a commitment to modify current ordinance to include street trees
- Stated goals to increase energy conservation, increase water quality, and decrease stormwater runoff through maintaining and increasing a healthy community tree canopy
- Stated desire to create or strengthen community forestry volunteer groups

**In order for your community to participate in the grant funded training, complete the Training Request Application. Attach the following supporting documents:**

- Sections of the city ordinance which pertain to trees, including right of way and new development sections
- Public tree management plan (if available)
- Tree Inventory and/or canopy cover analysis (if available)

The application and all documents should be e-mailed to [laura.wagner@dnr.iowa.gov](mailto:laura.wagner@dnr.iowa.gov) no later than **September 1<sup>st</sup>, 2015**.

If you apply and are accepted into this grant program in October 2015, the timeline will be as follows:

	Activity	2015	2016	2017	Personnel involved	Hours required
<b>Application Process</b>	Complete and submit application	By September 1, 2015				
	Community application award notification	October 1, 2015			Grant coordinator	

	Activity	2015	2016	2017	Personnel involved	Hours required
<b>Ordinance Review &amp; Modification</b>  <b>Urban Forest Management Plan</b>	Ordinance modification meetings		November – March 2017		State Urban Forester, City Council, Public Works, City Planner, Tree Board, City Legal Council	8
	Ordinance modification review		November – March 2017		State Urban Forester	8
	Set canopy goals, based on current canopy and inventory			January - March	DNR Urban Forestry, City Council, Tree Board, Assigned city staff	1-2
	GIS & Management plan completed			March	DNR Staff	40

	Activity	2015	2016	2017	Personnel involved	Hours Required
<b>Communication &amp; Reporting</b>	Quarterly reports due from communities		Jan, March, June, Sept	Jan, March, June, Sept	Assigned city staff	15 – 30 minutes
	Quarterly meeting with communities (can be conference call)		Jan, March, June, Sept	Jan, March, June, Sept	Grant coordinator, DNR Staff, Assigned city staff	15 minutes – 1 hour per meeting

	Activity	2015	2016	2017	Personnel involved	Hours required
<b>Training Module Schedule</b>	Initial coordination meeting with community, Initial Ordinance Review and Benefits of Trees Module	November, December	Or January		Grant Coordinator, District Forester, DNR Urban Forester, City Administrator, City Forestry Lead, City Council, Tree Board	3
	Technology Training (i-tree tools, tree id apps)		February, March or April In conjunction with Tree ID; Public Outreach		Grant Coordinator; Assigned city staff	2
	Public Outreach & Program Development		February, March or April In conjunction with Tech Training; Tree ID		Grant Coordinator; Assigned city staff	2
	Tree Id-Phase 1, indoors		February, March, or April In conjunction with Tech Training, Public Outreach		District Forester/DNR Urban Forestry/IAA, Assigned city staff, NGO, Tree Board. All staff who will be performing tree inventory are required to attend	2
	Tree Planting; Tree id, phase 2 – outdoors		May		District Forester/DNR Urban Forestry/IAA, Assigned city staff, NGO, Tree Board. All staff who will be performing tree inventory are required to attend	3
	Tree id, phase 3, Risk Tree Assessment, Forest Pests signs & symptoms		June, July, August		District Forester/ DNR Urban Forestry/Forest Health Specialist/IAA, Assigned city staff, NGO, Tree Board. All staff who will be performing tree inventory are required to attend	8
	Community tree inventory training		June, July, August		District Forester/DNR Urban Forestry, Assigned city staff, NGO,	16

					Tree Board. All staff who will be performing tree inventory are required to attend	
	Pruning and Maintenance		October, November		District Forester/ DNR Urban Forestry/IAA, Assigned city staff, NGO, Tree Board, and contractor/ inspector if maintenance is contracted. All staff who will be performing tree maintenance are required to attend	2

	Activity	2015	2016	2017	Personnel involved	Hours required
<b>Volunteer Events with workshop</b>	Volunteer tree planting event		September – October		Grant Coordinator/District Forester, Assigned City Staff, Tree Board, NGOs, Citizen volunteers	2-4
	Volunteer tree pruning & maintenance			March 2018	Grant Coordinator/District Forester, Assigned City Staff, Tree Board, NGOs, Citizen volunteers	2-4

	Activity	2015	2016	2017	Personnel involved	Hours required
<b>Community duties – on own-</b>	Perform Canopy Cover analysis (i-tree canopy)		February, March, or April, after training		Assigned city staff	1 – 5, varies due to size
	Complete Street Tree Inventory		September 15		Assigned city staff (on own, after 2 days with DNR)	Varies – estimated 1 day per 1000 population, per data collector, depending upon street tree canopy

	Outreach to community tree advocates		September, December	March, June, September, December	Assigned City Staff (with assistance from Grant Coordinator)	Varies
	Incorporate tree planting and maintenance schedule as specified in management plan to achieve canopy goals		Begin in April; ongoing	Ongoing	Assigned city staff, volunteer groups	varies