

Derecho Community Forestry Grant Program Final Report – Spring and Fall 2025



Figure 1. Volunteers planting a tree during the Cedar Rapids Community Forestry Grant Program planting event in Spring 2025.

Grant Overview & Requirements

Iowa State Legislature allocated \$250,000 from Rebuilding Iowa's Infrastructure Funds towards replanting trees lost in the derecho of 2020 to be spent within three years. Funds were in alignment with state code: Natural Resource Commission [571] Chapter 34 Community Forestry Grant Program. Per state code, applicants within the 27-county disaster proclamation area were required to submit a 6-page application as well as a map of the planting site and a quote from a nursery/firm. Beginning in Fall 2024, state code allowed application ranging from \$500 to \$10,000, requiring no local match. A single applicant could submit more than one application.

Applications were made available December 9, and accepted until March 3, 2025. Per state code, a team of DNR Forestry staff reviewed and scored each application. Award recipients were announced on March 21, 2025 and approximately \$216,981.52 was allocated using Derecho funds. In Fall of 2025, additional applications from Spring 2025 were accepted to allocate the remaining \$19,448.08 of unspent funding.

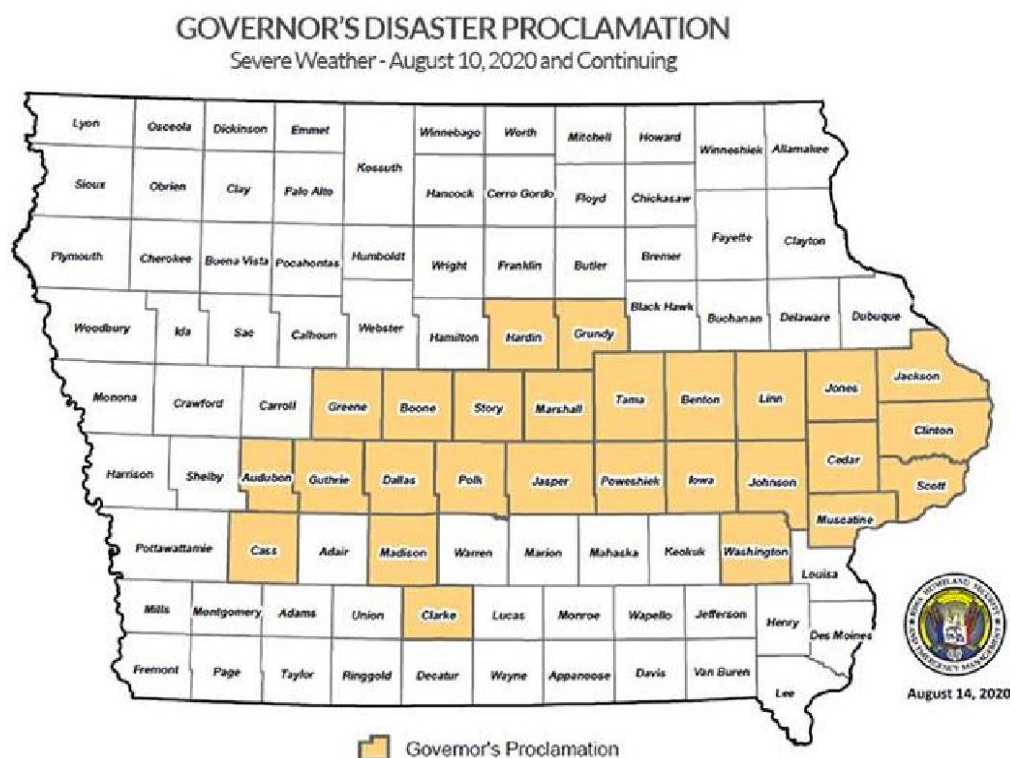


Figure 2. Map of Governor's Disaster Proclamation for Severe Weather on August 10, 2020

Eligible counties include: Audubon, Benton, Boone, Cass, Cedar, Clarke, Clinton, Dallas, Greene, Grundy, Guthrie, Hardin, Iowa, Jackson, Jasper, Johnson, Jones, Linn, Madison, Marshall, Muscatine, Polk, Poweshiek, Scott, Story, Tama, and Washington counties.

Award Recipients:

2025 Derecho RIIF Community Forestry Grant Program Urban Tree Plantings

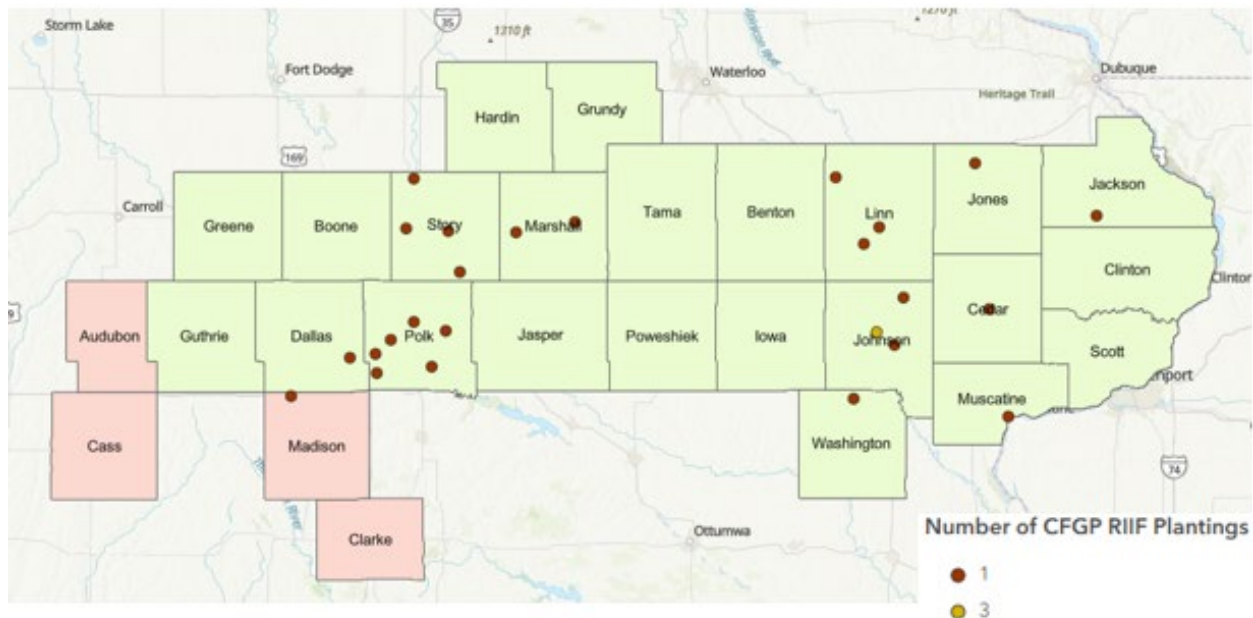


Figure 3. Map of locations awarded Derecho Community Forestry Grants Spring and Fall of 2025

Grant Outcomes:

A total of 30 projects were awarded, reaching 12 of the 27 derecho disaster counties. In total 1,319 trees were planted helping to restore canopy lost in the 2020 derecho and increase canopy diversity. DNR Forestry Section and DNR Wildlife Bureau staff participated in or inspected each of the 30 projects.

“It is nice to have DNR staff present at the plantings and able to help teach the volunteers. We were able to add trees that wouldn't have initially been in the budget and get volunteers involved in the planting.”

-Tyler Baird, Superintendent of Parks and Forestry

Applicant	Round	Trees	Grant Award	Volunteer Hours
City of Ames	Spring 2025	50	\$10,000	63
City of Ames	Fall 2025	3	\$619.09	0
City of Ankeny	Spring 2025	43	\$9,918.96	0
City of Bondurant	Fall 2025	30	\$9,120.00	0
City of Cedar Rapids	Spring 2025	29	\$4,560.00	87
City of Center Point	Spring 2025	19	\$3,500.00	38
City of Coralville	Spring 2025	150	\$30,000.00	0
City of Earlham	Spring 2025	36	\$6,858.48	69
City of Granger	Spring 2025	69	\$9,993.90	72.5
City of Iowa City	Spring 2025	51	\$10,000.00	6
City of Johnston	Spring 2025	60	\$10,000.00	63
City of Kalona	Spring 2025	52	\$9,989.03	87.5
City of Maquoketa	Spring 2025	30	\$7,914.60	23
City of Marion	Spring 2025	120	\$10,000.00	0
City of Marshalltown - Trees Forever	Spring 2025	25	\$3,545.00	16
City of Maxwell	Spring 2025	29	\$9,414.35	33.75
City of Monticello	Spring 2025	75	\$9,900.00	82.5
City of Muscatine	Spring 2025	43	\$10,000.00	100
City of Nevada	Spring 2025	51	\$10,000.00	30
City of Pleasant Hill	Spring 2025	94	\$10,000.00	27
City of Solon	Spring 2025	64	\$9,975.00	200
City of Story City	Spring 2025	26	\$4,356.00	0
City of Tipton	Spring 2025	51	\$9,975.00	162.5
City of Urbandale	Spring 2025	30	\$5,029.00	74
City of Waukee	Spring 2025	12	\$1,334.00	154.5
City of West Des Moines	Spring 2025	35	\$10,000.00	0
Gutekunst Public Library	Spring 2025	3	\$718.20	6
North Polk CSD	Fall 2025	40	\$,9708.99	75

Table 1. Recipients of the Spring and Fall 2025 Derecho Community Forestry Grant, total trees planted, grant award amount and volunteer hours.



Figure 4. Volunteers planting a tree during the Center Point Community Forestry Grant Program planting event in Spring 2025.

Additional Impacts:

Nursery Outreach

A total of \$236,429.60 went to nurseries, garden centers, and businesses from the 2025 Community Forestry Grant Program.