

State of Illinois
Urban and Community Forestry
Strategic Plan 2005-2015

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State of Illinois Urban and Community Forestry Strategic Plan 2005-2015

PURPOSE OF PLAN

The purpose of this plan is to identify program authorities and to provide a framework for the urban and community forestry assistance program in Illinois. Focuses, Goals, objectives and tasks will be identified for the next ten years. The plan will outline current program delivery methods and actions available to reach these goals. Additionally, needs as identified by constituency groups will be included in the plan.

DEFINITIONS

Illinois Urban and Community Forestry Program - As authorized by the Urban and Community Forestry Assistance Act and the federal USDA Forest Service authorities and associated guidelines. Illinois Urban and community Forestry Program is authorized to provide technical and financial assistance to communities for the purpose of community forestry management.

Tree City USA - Tree City USA is a state and national program that recognizes municipalities for accomplishing the basic components of a local community forestry program. Municipalities must accomplish the following: 1) Establish local tree authority; 2) Implement a Tree Care Ordinance that Identified who has tree authority and tree planting and care standards; 3) Expend \$2 per capita on tree related actions; and 4) Celebrate Arbor Day by planting a tree and having the mayor sign an Arbor Day Proclamation.

IL Urban and Community Forestry - The program has been defined as the planning, planting, maintenance and management of the trees and forest ecosystems within the municipal boundaries of Illinois communities.

USDA FS Urban and Community Forestry Program

The National Urban and Community Forestry Program is defined and authorized by Section 9, Urban and Community Forestry Assistance, of the Cooperative Forestry Assistance Act of 1978 (PL 95-313) and as amended by P.L. 101-624. This law authorized the Secretary of Agriculture to provide financial, technical, and related assistance states in providing cooperation with the local units of government and other authorized community tree advocates.

ILLINOIS COMMUNITY STRUCTURE

The State of Illinois holds nearly 4.4% of the nation's population. Illinois ranks in the top five states in the nation for population and number of communities. Within the boundaries of the state, there are 1,322 communities and an additional 373 other local units of government that manage local tree resources. Nearly 88% of Illinois citizens or 10.9 million people live within an urban or community setting. The Tree City USA Communities alone serve 65% of Illinois citizens within these population centers. This level of participation has placed Illinois' Tree City USA Program as #2 in the nation for the past decade.

Illinois has six Statistical Metropolitan Areas including: Champaign/Urbana area; Chicago/NE region, Metro-east region; Peoria area; Rock Island/Moline area; and Springfield area.

Equally important are the small rural communities throughout Illinois. Collectively these communities are about the size of the City of Chicago or approximately one third of the state's community-based residents. In Illinois, 95% of the state's incorporated communities are classified as small (population less than 25,000). 1212 communities fit into this classification.

With the service demands coming for Chicago (one of the largest cities in the nation) to town of Steward a 200 population Tree City USA community, it is apparent that the state program needs vary greatly. Small communities often face basic community forestry service needs, financial needs for smaller projects and often rely on volunteers.

Mid-sized communities may be able to afford to hire a professional forester or certified arborist. They tend to need financial incentives to help them with management initiatives not held as priority within the current community fiscal structure. Large communities such as Chicago are multi layered and involve the cooperation of many Departments within the City to complete a project. Single greening projects often cost more than the entire state budget for urban and community forestry. This diversity of size and social structures within the state truly make Illinois a state that embraces the phrase "Urban and Community."

ILLINOIS CONSTITUENCY'S ATTITUDES TOWARD COMMUNITY FORESTRY

The following information is based on the research conducted by Thomas Green, Timothy Howe, and Herbert Schroeder as published in the following reports: "Illinois Small Community Tree Programs: Attitudes, Status and Needs, 1998" and "Community Tree Programs in Illinois: Attitudes, Status, and Needs – Final Report of the Illinois Community Tree Program Surveys, March, 2002"

Municipal officials from Illinois communities of all sizes have very strong positive attitudes toward the value of community trees (Green, et. al. 2002) According to the report: Illinois Small Community Tree Programs: Attitudes, Status and Needs, 1998 by Thomas Green, Timothy Howe, and Herbert Schroeder, "virtually all of the respondents felt that trees improve the appearance of the community and 90% felt trees are important for maintaining a healthy community environment and for enhancing the quality of live in a community." Over 85% of the respondents indicated support for municipal funding for hazard tree removal and 2/3rds were supportive of municipal funding for tree programs in general. 72% strongly agreed with the statement that the state should provide personnel and technical services to help communities develop and maintain community trees. Over half of the respondents felt that trees were valuable to annual community festivals and events. Similar results were found when Green et.al. surveyed the larger communities in Illinois.

According to Green, et. al. in "Community Tree Programs in Illinois: Attitudes, Status, and Needs – Final Report of the Illinois Community Tree Program Surveys, March, 2002", virtually all respondents said they felt that trees improve appearance of a community, and over 90% agreed that trees are also important for maintaining a healthy community environment and for enhancing the quality of life in a community. 78% of the respondents agreed that trees can help attract customers to business areas. The majority of respondents felt that municipal governments should provide funding for various aspects of a community forestry program. The removal of hazardous trees to protect the public from harm received the greatest support with 86% agreeing that municipalities should fund this activity. In regard to the role of state government in providing personnel and technical assistance to help communities develop and maintain community tree programs a majority (75%) agreed or strongly agreed that the state should provide such services. State and federal grant programs can be a very valuable to a community's effort for enhancing their tree program. This is especially true for smaller communities which seldom have the funds necessary to support a city forester or arborist, nor large amounts of discretionary funds with which to plant and care for trees.

Overall the largest communities in the survey sample showed the greatest support for using municipal funds for managing public tree, while the smallest communities showed less support. This difference may reflect the greater difficulty that smaller communities have in finding sufficient funds to carry out tree management activities.

Recommendations: This survey demonstrated that local municipal officials from communities of all sizes in Illinois have very strong positive attitudes toward the value of trees to their communities. However, many of the small communities do not have personnel on staff who are trained in the proper planting, care and maintenance of trees. A majority of the respondents believe that the State should provide personnel and technical assistance to help in the development and maintenance of community tree programs. These considerations lead (the researchers) to make the following recommendations:

Trained community foresters need to be available throughout the state on a multi-county basis to provide assistance to the communities of Illinois, especially the small communities, in developing or enhancing their community tree programs. These Community Forestry Specialists would:

- 1) Provide technical assistance to local municipalities to help initiate or further develop community tree programs including the development or updating of tree ordinances.
- 2) Conduct training workshops for municipal employees and community groups in the proper selection, planting and care of trees.
- 3) Provide information to communities and regional planning agencies that serve those communities to assist in the preparation of community forestry grant applications.
- 4) Coordinate community tree inventories and hazard tree assessments.

ILLINOIS DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES – GREEN CITIES CAMPAIGN

In the IDNR, Illinois Comprehensive Wildlife Conservation Plan – Strategy Version 1.0, Page 88-91 addressed a Green Cities Campaign. The focus of this campaign is the impact of development on the bigger picture of wildlife habitat and management. Hydrological impacts of urbanization and impervious surfaces include: water pollution, soil erosion, loss of wetlands, and flooding. Additional impacts of urbanization include: heat island effects, loss of open space and recreational opportunities, exotic plant and animal introductions. Tree City USA program is mentioned for the first time in ORC history as an action for integrating wildlife and habitat conservation in developed areas.

State of Illinois Urban and Community Forestry Strategic Plan 2005-2015

VISION

Illinois' Urban and Community Forests Program should have the capacity to assist all communities in attaining the basic community forest management standards of the Tree City USA program as a stepping stone for building sustainable local community forestry programs that will preserve the health and integrity of the trees in our communities will providing a safe and beneficial environment for over 80% of Illinois citizens.

The future vision of the Green Industry is to have leadership, resources and services at the local and state governmental levels that will more closely align with its economic tax contribution of \$250 million. This value is based on purchase of allied inputs, equipment, and facilities (Source: U of I, The Illinois Green Industry) . Additionally, Tree City USA communities will be provided fiscal resources and services more closely aligned to their \$82 million contribution to the state's economy and add \$1.3 million in tax revenue form income tax.

MISSION

The Mission of the Illinois Urban and Community Forestry Program is to provide information and technical assistance to units of local government and others that will encourage cooperative efforts to plan and implement local community forestry programs to plant, protect, maintain and utilize the wood from trees within local jurisdictions. Urban and Community Forestry management incorporates an integration of natural, social, and economic systems to create a healthy local forest resource and a safe environment for Illinois citizens.

REFERENCES COMPILED:

The following list contains the guiding documents used to compile Illinois Urban and Community Forestry Strategic Plan

Keyword - Description

IL	Constitution of the State of Illinois – Article XI – Environment
IDNRv	A Vision and Action Plan for THE ILLINOIS DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES; A 21 st – Century6 Leader in Natural Resources – 1998”
IDNRsp	Illinois Department of Natural Resources Strategic Plan 2002 Highlights
IDNRwp	Illinois Department of Natural Resources – Illinois Comprehensive Wildlife Conservation Plan – Strategy Version 1.0 -July, 2005
UCFAA	Urban and Community Forestry Assistance Act 30 ILCS 735/6 Act. 735 – an act to provide technical assistance, training, and financial aid to units of local government for the development of plans and implementation of programs for the establishment, management, conservation and preservation of urban and community forestry.
USDA FS	Cooperative Forestry Assistance Act 1998 authorized by 16 U.S.C. 2101 that authorizes the USDA Forest Service National Urban and Community Forestry Program and provides the Urban and Community Forestry Program Guidelines for State Urban and Community Forestry Programs
NA	USDA Forest Service Northeastern Area – State and Private Forestry – Bringing Forestry to the People – Feb. 2001
CIF	Urban and Community Forestry Critical Issues Forum Oct. 2001 sponsored by the Illinois Arborist Association
UCFC	Urban and Community Forestry Blue Ribbon Committee Results 2003
IAA	Illinois Arborist Association 2006 Strategic Plan
CFD	Council on Forestry Development Long Range Plan 1998
WIU	Illinois Small Community Tree Programs: Attitudes, Status and Needs, 1998; Green, Howe, and Schroeder. Plus “Community Tree Programs in Illinois: Attitudes, Status, and Needs – Final Report of the Illinois Community Tree Program Surveys, March, 2002”
U of I	Study of the Economic Impact of the Green Industry

ILLINOIS URBAN AND COMMUNITY FORESTRY STRATEGIC PLAN

The Illinois Urban and Community Forestry Strategic Plan is created using a variety of state, agency, organizational and regional planning processes. The documents created from these citizen/constituency based-input processes have been incorporated into this document. Credits are placed behind the statement with the quality of strength designated as Source (originating document or group), Authorities (legal authorities/laws); Similar Supporting Statements (statements from documents or groups that would support this statement) and Implied (Statements that indirectly relate or would apply to the statement made). The plan is divided into four Focus areas with objectives, goals and specific task (when available) listed. The four Focus Areas are: A) Education and Training in Urban and Community Forestry; B) Urban and Community Forestry Resource Management; C) Program Leadership, Outreach, and Infrastructure / Financial Assistance / Economic Impact; and D) Partnerships Within and Promotion of the Green Industry

FOCUS A) EDUCATION AND TRAINING IN URBAN AND COMMUNITY FORESTRY

Goal A.1 Promote high quality urban and community forestry practices and management through technical assistance, education, and technology transfer. (Source: CFD; Similar Supporting Statements: UFAA, CIF, UCFC, IAA, Implied Supportive Statements: DNRV, DNRSP)

Objective A1.1 Promote training and development to expand the capability of urban and community forestry practitioners, related disciplines and volunteer organizations. (Source: CFD; Similar Supporting Statements: UFAA, CIF, UCFC, IAA, Implied Supportive Statements: DNRV, DNRSP)

Objective A1.2 Unique Urban and Community Forestry Educational/training needs between upstate and downstate Illinois need to be addressed. (Source: UCFC)

Sub-Objective A.1.2.a Provide basic urban forestry education to Downstate area city planners and elected officials about the value of trees to their communities. (Source: UCFC)

Sub-Objective A.1.2.b Host a Downstate “Recreational Climbing” event possibly at the state fair. (Source: IAA)

Sub-Objective A.1.2.c Develop a program through IDNR’s service contract for Southern Illinois and through other regional urban and community forestry councils. (Source: IAA)

Objective A.1.3 IDNR should provide information on the cost effectiveness of tree maintenance and its benefits regarding tree health and personal safety that result. (Source: UCFC)

Objective A.1.4 Increase scientific knowledge and educate the public about natural and cultural resources. (Source: DNRsp)

Objective A.1.5 Develop and implement effective natural and cultural resources and related education programs. (Source: DNRsp)

Objective A.1.6 Promote training and development to expend the capabilities of urban and community forestry practitioners and related disciplines (Source: CFD)

Objective B.1.7 Strengthen education about resource-related public safety (Source: IDNRsp; Supporting Statements: USDA FS, NA, UCFAA)

Goal A.2 Awareness, information and informal public education needs to be provided to Illinois citizens on urban forestry and the green industry. (Source: CIF: Similar Supporting Language: USDAFS, NA, UCFAA, IAA, Implied Language: DNRv, DNRsp)

Objective A.2.1 Supply “Pruning and Tree Care” Literature to Illinois libraries. (Source: IAA)

Objective A.2.2 Promote training and development to expend the capabilities of urban and community forestry volunteer organizations. (Source: CFD)

Objective A.2.3 There is a need for more homeowner education concerning the issues of parkway trees and urban forestry management. (Source: UCFC)

Objective A.2.4 Develop an information and education program to improve (a) public knowledge and awareness, (b) public support, (c) interdepartmental and other agency coordination for urban and community forestry management. (Source: CFD)

Goal A.3 There is an ongoing need to provide formal educational outreach for Illinois youth and teachers on trees. (Source: CIF: Similar Supporting Statements: CFD, DNRsp, DNRv)

Objective A.3.1 Form a committee to locate career fairs and opportunities to promote arboriculture such as Earth Day and Arbor Day. (Source: IAA)

Objective A.3.2 Support efforts to start basic science, botany, arboriculture/urban forestry awareness in grade school and continuing through high school to educate our future forest caretakers. (Source: UCFC)

Goal A.4 Upstate constituency and inner city constituency requires more bilingual training sessions/tools and tree planting and care projects. Sources: UCFC and USDA FS, NA; Implied: UCFAA)

Objective A.4.1 Develop Spanish Language training sessions. (Source: IAA)

Objective A.4.2 The public we serve is changing, becoming more urban, ethnically diverse and older, with more single families with limited leisure time but with increased interest in outdoor recreation. The DNR should be a Department that understands all its customers and is eager to improve service to better meet their needs (Source: DNRv, P.2)

Goal A.5 Decision-makers and Local Public Officials outreach is needed. (Source UCFC)

Objective A.5.1 Illinois Department of Natural Resources needs to provide Technical assistance/educational outreach to local units of government. (Source: CIF and WIU)

FOCUS B) URBAN AND COMMUNITY FORESTRY RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

Goal B.1 Provide Illinois Citizens with a healthy environment (Source: IL; Similar Supporting Statements: NA USDAFS, UCFAA)

Goal B.2 Promote sustainable resource development and management (Source: IDNRsp; Similar Supporting Statements: USDA FS, NA, UFAA, DNRv)

Objective B.2.1 Integrate wildlife and habitat conservation in developed areas, as possible or appropriate. (Source: DNRwp p.89)

Sub-Objective B.2.1.a Administer and expand the urban forestry (Source: DNRwp p. 89)

Sub-Sub-Objective B.2.1.a.i Add five communities per year to the Tree City USA Program (Source DNRwp p.89)

Sub-Sub-Objective B.2.1.a.ii Provide urban and community forestry grants to 10-20 communities per year (Source DNRwp p.89)

Sub-Sub-Objective B.2.1.a.iii Monitor the condition of urban forests and offer technical assistance to communities (Source DNRwp p90)

Objective B.2.2 Continue to support the Illinois Department of Natural Resources – Urban and Community Forestry Program (UCFC; Authorities: UCFAA, USDAFS, NA)

Sub-Objective B.2.2.a Continue to provide technical assistance through the IDNR Tree City USA program as a vehicle for creating sustainable local tree management systems within local communities. (Source: UCFC; Similar Supporting Statements: DNRwp)

Sub-Objective B.2.2.b Continue to provide technical and financial assistance through the IDNR Urban and Community Forestry program as a vehicle for creating sustainable local tree management systems within local communities. (Source: UCFC; Similar Supporting Statements: DNRwp)

Goal B.3 Provide technical assistance, training and financial aid to units of local government for the development of plans and implementation of programs for the establishment, management, conservation and preservation of the urban and community forest. (Authority: UCFAA; Similar Supporting Statements: USDAFS, NA, DNRwp)

Objective B.3.1 (See Objective B.2.1.a.ii)

Goal B.4 Promote high quality urban and community forest management that will result in economic benefits and in attractive, healthful and rewarding environments from urban forests for the people of Illinois. (Source: CFD; Similar Supporting Statements: UFAA, CIF, UCFC, IAA, Implied Supportive Statements: DNRv, DNRsp)

Objective B.4.3 Technically sound tree care is important to the safety of citizens and the health of our urban forests. (Source: CIF)

Objective B.4.4 Develop management strategies to address the growing number of invasive species and the lack of their adequate management. (Source: UCFC)

Goal B.5 Encourage units of government to implement acceptable tree care practices and utilize professional urban foresters and arborist in their local tree maintenance, urban planning and development programs. (Source: CFD; Similar Supporting Statements: UFAA, CIF, UCFC, IAA, Implied Supportive Statements: USDA FS, NA)

Objective B.5.1 Communities need guidelines to identify quality planting stock and to establish and implement good tree planting and mulching standards. (Source CIF)

Objective B.5.2 Encourage more funding for tree planting programs. (Source: UCFC)

Goal B.6 Facilitate ecosystem-level management initiatives that increase linkage with programs associated with wood waste reduction and recycling, timber supply, watershed management, management in the urban-wildling interface and so forth, (Source: CFD; Similar Supporting Statements: UFAA, CIF, UCFC, IAA, Implied Supportive Statements: DNRV, DNRSP)

Objectives B.6.1 Integrate residual wood utilization strategies into the EAB ash tree disposal into the EAB Readiness Plans (Sources: EAB Readiness Plan and the State of Illinois Community EAB Readiness Plan)

Objective B.6.2 Wood waste disposal and residual wood utilization needs further study and market analysis because of the supply of wood chips created by compliance with the law eliminating landscape debris in landfills. In addition, consideration of residual wood as an energy strategy to help our nation become energy efficient needs to be considered. (Source: CIF)

Goal B.7 Public policy must balance protection of the state's natural resources and economic growth (Source: DNRv, P.4)

Objective B.7.1 Encourage local decision makers, planners, developers, and local foresters to develop an integrated approach that includes trees as an essential part of the development process. (Source: CIF; Similar Supporting Statements: UCFAA, DNRwp, DNRsp, DNRv, NA)

Objective B.7.2 Promote resource protection laws (Source: IDNRsp; Similar Supporting Statements UCFAA)

Objective B.7.3 Illinois land is being developed at an increasing rate. This development is called growth by some and sprawl by others. Rapid and unplanned growth or sprawl is a major contributor to the unnecessary loss and degradation of natural resources. The DNR should be a Department that protects the best natural land from development and helps other [local units of government], agencies, organizations, individual landowners and developers understand, anticipate, plan and manage growth. We should provide sound technical information about natural resources and assist in resource management and protection to help Illinois communities, citizens and businesses make good development decisions that build more attractive communities in which to live and work not and in the future. (Source: DNRv, P.2)

Goal B.8 Provide for resource-related public safety. (Source: IDNRsp; Similar Supporting Statements: USDAFS, NA, UCFAA)

Objective B.8.1 Encourage communities to conduct tree inventories and take action to remove high risk trees (Source: USDA FS, NA, UCFAA)

Sub-objective B.8.1.a Provide financial support for tree management plans based on tree inventories through the Urban and Community Forestry Assistance Act in partnership with the USDA Forest Service Urban and Community Forestry Program. (Source: UCFAA, USDAFS, NA, Implied Statements: DNRsp, DNRv)

Objective B.8.2 Enforce related and mandated public safety laws and regulations (Source: IDNRsp; Supporting Statements: UCFAA)

Objective B.8.3 Conduct research and implement programs to reduce risks to human safety from natural hazards. (Source: IDNRsp; Similar Supporting Statements: USDA FS, NA, UCFAA) NOTE: Urban Forestry focuses on storm mitigation and response as a safety issue from natural disasters.

Sub-Objective B.8.3.a Encourage communities to conduct tree inventories and take action to remove high risk trees (Source: USDA FS, NA, UCFAA)

Objective B.8.4 Implement customer-focused quality performance management for the delivery of public safety services. (Source: IDNRsp; Similar Supporting Statements: USDA FS, NA, UCFAA)

Goal B.9 Encourage units of government to implement acceptable tree care practices and utilize professional urban foresters and arborist in their local tree maintenance, urban planning and development programs. Source: UCFC; Similar Supporting Statements: USDA FS, NA, UCFAA)

FOCUS C) PROGRAM LEADERSHIP, OUTREACH AND INFRASTRUCTURE / FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE/ ECONOMIC IMPACT

PROGRAM LEADERSHIP, OUTREACH AND INFRASTRUCTURE

Goal C.1 Provide leadership to manage, protect, sustain, and promote Illinois' natural and cultural resources (Source: IDNRsp; Similar Supporting Statements: UCFAA, NA)

Objective C.1.1 Protect and provide stewardship for Illinois' natural Resources...for public health and safety. (Source: DNRvp.3)

Objective C.1.2 Understand and respond to the full range of our present and potential customers from rural to URBAN, sportsman to cyclist, scientist to industries, other governmental agencies, the public and our own colleagues within the Department (Source: DNRv P.3)

Goal C.2 Duties of the Department [of Natural Resources]. The Department shall promote the development of plans and programs for the establishment, management, and conservation of the urban/community forest with units of local government. (Authorities: UCFAA; Similar Supporting Statements: USDA FS, NA)

Objective C.2.1 CORE Urban and Community Forestry Program (Critical Needs vs. Desirable components) The consensus was that IDNR needs to provide a state program administrator, coupled with regional staff and local councils made up of government and citizen members. Additionally, IDNR should provide grants to municipalities and non-profits to carry out recommended USDA FS guidelines. It was suggested that IDNR/State of Illinois work toward self-funded state programs that are not dependent on federal dollars or levels of funding. Several examples of neighboring states with fewer communities and less of a population/metropolitan base were cited as models. (Source: UCFC, Authorities: USDAFS, NA, UCFAA)

Objective C.2.2 Duties of the Department [of Natural Resources]. The Department shall Provide technical assistance, planning, analysis for projects related to urban/c0ommunity forestry (Authorities: UCFAA; Similar Supporting Statements: USDAFS , NA)

Objective C.2.3 Duties of the Department [of Natural Resources]. The Department shall Seek and review for approval acceptable Urban/Community Forestry proposals submitted by applicants within the State. (Authorities: UCFAA; Similar Supporting Statements: USDAFS , NA)

Objective C.2.4 Expand current technical assistance to units of government by adding a minimum of 8 additional urban forestry field professional employees, plus support staff. (Source: CFD; Similar Supporting Statements: UFAA, CIF, UCFC, IAA, Implied Supportive Statements: DNRV, DNRSP)

Objective C.2.5 Maintain current and secure additional state and federal assistance for urban and community forestry programs and projects. (Source: CFD; Similar Supporting Statements: UFAA, USDA FS, NA, CIF, UCFC, IAA)

Objective C.2.6 BLUE RIBBON Urban and Community Forestry COMMITTEE indicated that more staffing was needed to create better links with communities. This staff could be provided either internally or via contract. It was suggested that "Community Tree Staffing" positions be created. Not only does the state need more staff but there is a need for access to qualified staff in all villages and cities. When possible professional urban foresters should be hired. (Source: UCFC; Similar Supporting Statements: USDAFS, NA, CFD; Implied Statements: UFAA)

Objective C.2.7 Encourage and support Urban and Community Forestry programs at the federal, state, and local levels. (Source: CFD)

Objective C.2.8 Promote urban and community forestry practices by providing professional training and technical outreach enhancement through education, technology transfer, and research that will encourage technically sound tree management practices. (Source: CIF)

Objective C.2.9 Technical Assistance to Local Units of Government (tool kits; site visits, issues) The group felt there should be more expertise available to small communities. This echoed the results of the 1998 WIU study on the Community Forestry needs of small communities. As technology progresses, on-line technical interactive assistance should be made available. There was concern about the lack of adequate program infrastructure due to the IDNR having no dedicated Regional urban and community forestry specialist. There was interest in having more internships for students to help district foresters. (Source: UCFC)

Objective C.2.10 At present the BLUE RIBBON Urban and Community Forestry COMMITTEE felt that the current regional/district forestry staff needs to be more active in informing communities about the urban and community forestry program services- both technical and financial. (Source: UCFC)

Objective C.2.11 Communities need technical assistance to manage their community's natural resources. (Source: CIF)

Objective C.2.12 Technical assistance/educational outreach to local units of government. (Source: CIF)

Goal C.3 Implement customer-focused quality performance management in delivering ecosystem management program and services (Source: IDNRsp; Similar Supporting Statements: USDAFS, NA)

Goal C.4 Encourage units of government to implement acceptable tree care practices and utilize professional urban foresters and arborist in their local tree maintenance, urban planning and development programs. (Source: CFD; Similar Supporting Statements: UFAA, CIF, UCFC, IAA, Implied Supportive Statements: USDAFS, NA)

FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

Goal C.5 Concerning the Grant Program - Financial Assistance to Communities/Financial Outreach to Local Units of Government the BLUE RIBBON Urban and Community Forestry COMMITTEE felt that more grant money should be contributed to communities and that the existing Urban and Community Forestry Grant program should be continued as an economic enhancement incentive. Long-term they would like to see an increase in funding for the Urban and Community Forestry Grant Program. (Source: UCFC)

Objective C.5.1 Financial assistance to local units of government is a priority (Source: CIF)

Objective C.5.2 Increased Financial resources in urban and community forestry are needed to continue to provide support to local urban and community forestry programs at all levels of development. (Source: CIF)

Objective C.5.3 Develop and establish a program to provide stable funding for urban and community forestry programs. (Source: CDF)

Objective C.5.4 It was suggested that a grant awareness brochure be created once the grant program is re-established. (Source: UCFC)

Goal C.6 Provide technical and financial support for the urban and community forestry projects and promote natural resources management as a means by addressing the economic, social, and environmental needs in communities. (Source: NA; Supporting Statements: USDAFS, UCFAA)

ECONOMIC

Goal C.7 Natural resources have intrinsic value (Source, DNRv)

Objective C.7.1 Public awareness is needed so that the benefits of community forests and open space is not undervalued or overlooked. (Source: CIF; Similar Supporting Statements: U of I)

Objective C.7.2 We need to maintain the trees and forests where we live, work and play so that they will be healthy and diverse and appreciated by all. (Source: NA)

Objective C.7.3 We need to achieve community stability and enhance the quality of life through stewardship of urban and community forests and related natural resources. (Source: NA)

Goal C.8 Natural resource management and protection contributes to the state's economy (Source DNRv; Similar Supporting Statements: U of I)

Objective C.8.1 Public awareness is needed to inform citizens of the green industry/urban forest as a hidden economic force in agriculture. (Source: CIF; Similar Supporting Statements: U of I)

Objective C.8.2 Illinois Green industry is a \$5 billion economic force in Illinois. (Source: U of I)

Goal C.9 Local and state decision makers need to be the focus of information on urban forestry and the positive cost benefit ratio of tree care programs. (Source: CIF)

FOCUS D) PARTNERSHIPS WITHIN AND PROMOTION OF THE GREEN INDUSTRY

Goal D.1 Encourage and enhance cooperation, networking and partnerships between and within public and private agencies and organizations . (Source: CFD; Similar Supporting Statements: UFAA, CIF, UCFC, IAA, Implied Supportive Statements: DNRV, DNRSP)

Objective D.1.1 Encourage more interaction and cooperation between governmental and nongovernmental organizations to identify common issues, develop strategies, and strengthen commitments to urban and community forestry. (Source: CFD)

Goal D.2 Continue a recognition program for urban partners. (Source: CFD)

Goal D.3 Build and strengthen partnerships with individuals and other entities (Source: IDNR sp; Supporting Statements: USDA FS, NA, Implied Statements: UFCAA)

Goal D.4 Encourage local decision makers, planners, developers, and local foresters to develop an integrated approach that includes trees as an essential part of the development process. (Source: CIF)

Goal D.5 Contribute and influence programs from Green Industry organization to include arboriculture topics. (Source: IAA)

Goal D.6 In partnership with community-based organizations and state and local leadership, technical assistance, and seed money from the program has leveraged new long-term investments in trees planting and maintenance, ecosystem restoration, community revitalization, residual recycling, employment, and economic development opportunities. (Source:NA; Similar Supporting Statements: UCFAA, USDAFS)

FOCUS E) CRITICAL ISSUES IMPACTING URBAN AND COMMUNITY FORESTS

Goal E.1 IDNR should serve on committees and task forces to help address critical issues impacting the health and condition of the state's local forest resources.

Goal E.2 Assist Municipalities in addressing emerging urban and community forestry issues that will have a strong impact on their communities such as Emerald Ash Borer and other insect or disease epidemics,

Objective E.2.1 Develop and maintain the State Emerald Ash Borer Community Readiness Plan.

Objective E.2.2 Provide linkage to other agencies (such as Illinois Department of Agriculture) and resources for assistance with insect and pest issues and other emerging urban and community forestry issues.

Objective E.2.3 Provide technical assistance in developing local protocol with linkages to state and federal protocol.

Goal E.3 Encourage and enhance cooperation, networking and partnerships between and within public and private agencies and organizations for the management of emerging and critical issues that impact Illinois' local urban and community forest resources.

Objective E.3.1 Encourage more interaction and cooperation between governmental and nongovernmental organizations to identify common issues, develop strategies, and strengthen commitments to urban and community forestry. (Source: CFD)

Goal E.4 Through the Urban and Community Forestry Assistance Act provide grant funding for projects that will help municipalities better manage for emerging and critical urban and community forestry issues.

Objective E.4.1 Provide technical and financial support for the urban and community forestry projects and promote natural resources management as a means by addressing the economic, social, and environmental needs in communities. (Source: NA; Supporting Statements: USDAFS, UCFAA)

Sub-Objective E.4.1.a Encourage communities to conduct tree inventories to help monitor for Emerald Ash Borer and other forest health issues (Source: USDA FS, NA, UCFAA)

Sub-Objective E.4.1.b Encourage communities to update their local ordinances to reflect the management needs of specific emerging issues such as Emerald Ash Borer (Source: USDA FS, NA, UCFAA)

Sub-Objective E.4.1.c Provide reforestation funding to communities for tree planting on public lands in known Emerald Ash Borer infested communities (Source: USDA FS, NA, UCFAA)

APPENDIX A – Illinois Urban and Community Forestry Shareholders

APPENDIX A – Illinois Urban and Community Forestry Shareholders

National Level

Primary

USDA Forest Service
National Arbor Day Foundation
National Urban and Community Forestry Advisory Council
International Society of Arboriculture
Tree Care Industry
Society of Municipal Arborist

Additional

Major Home Improvement Corporations (Home Depot, Lowes,...)
Tree Link

State Level

Primary

Illinois Department of Natural Resources
Illinois Department of Agriculture – Natural Resources
Illinois Arborist Association
Illinois Municipalities League Association
Illinois Landscape Contractors Association
Illinois Nurseryman’s Association
Illinois Forestry Development Council
Universities – U of I, ISU, Western Illinois U.
Regional Planning Commissions

Additional

Office of Governor
Lt. Governor’s Main Street Program
State Legislature
Department of Transportation
Housing and Urban Development
Federal Emergency Management Agency
Real Estate Associations
Economic Development Councils

APPENDIX A – Illinois Urban and Community Forestry Shareholders cont.

Local Level

Primary

Tree City USA communities
Local Tree Boards and Commissions
All other communities
Local/County Master Gardeners
County Extension Offices
Tree Service Companies
Local Nurseries and Landscapers
Volunteer and Service Groups
K-12 School

Additional

Local corporations
Business groups
City Planners
City Engineers
County government

**APPENDIX B – URBAN & COMMUNITY FORESTRY BLUE RIBBON COMMITTEE
FINDINGS**

APPENDIX B – BLUE RIBBON COMMITTEE FINDINGS

URBAN AND COMMUNITY FORESTRY BLUE RIBBON COMMITTEE

On September 3, 2002 a group of dedicated and enthusiastic urban forestry individuals got together to envision what the future of urban and community forestry in Illinois could, and should, become. Even the budget situation and the impending change within the ranks of the State Capitol did not dampen the spirits of this committee.

As Urban and Community Forestry Program Administrator, my role was to simply explain status quo and share program accomplishments. Volunteer Coordinators, Dave Close and Scott Bretthauer, shared their accomplishments as contractual representatives of the IDNR Urban and Community Forestry Program. The group took it from there.

The bottom line from the Blue Ribbon Committee was the desire to maintain current program components and institute a fully funded Urban and Community Forestry Assistance Grant program. Additionally, the committee envisioned a fully staffed field urban forestry section within IDNR with a minimum of at least one field urban forester per region and at least one coordinator at the regional level who would answer to the Springfield Urban and Community Forestry Program Administrator. Ideally, the regional staff would be skilled in the areas of planning and forestry/vegetation management.

The staff would prioritize their efforts based on regional needs with centralized program direction, coordination, management, and support from Springfield. The job focus could center on previously neglected topics such as trees and development, trees and open space preservation, soil protection, watershed management, youth/informal public education on tree care, and urban forest management. The group envisioned the program becoming more autonomous through local or state based funding initiatives and more independent within the current state hierarchical structure. For a complete summary go to Page 3.

Partnership Corner

"The Tree stands in triumph with its roots deep in the Earth, its branches touching the Sky, its leaves capturing the Sun and breathing the breath of life for animals and [Mankind] - the keystone of our natural environment and the symbol of [mankind's] life and consciousness."

*-- Dr. Marion T. Hall
The Morton Arboretum*

Urban and Community Forestry Blue Ribbon Committee

The Blue Ribbon Team met at 10:00 a.m. on September 3, 2002. After a brief overview of the Urban and Community Forestry Program the group began to work.

Over the noon hour the BLUE RIBBON COMMITTEE assessed a variety of issues. They identified Urban Natural Resource Concerns about 1) the growing number of invasive species and the lack of adequate management; 2) the lack of funding for tree planting programs; 3) the lack of contract vendor standards for tree planting and mulching techniques; and 4) the need for more homeowner education concerning the issues of parkway trees and urban forestry management.

APPENDIX B – BLUE RIBBON COMMITTEE FINDINGS cont.

The group indicated that more staffing was needed to create better links with communities. This staff could be provided either internally or via contract. It was suggested that "Community Tree Staffing" positions be created. Not only does the state need more staff but there is a need for access to qualified staff in all villages and cities. When possible professional urban foresters should be hired.

Concerning the ***Grant Program - Financial Assistance to Communities/Financial Outreach to Local Units of Government*** the group felt that more grant money should be contributed to communities and that the existing Urban and Community Forestry Grant program should be continued as an economic enhancement incentive. Long-term they would like to see an increase in funding for the Urban and Community Forestry Grant Program. At present they felt that the current regional/district forestry staff needs to be more active in informing communities about the urban and community forestry program services- both technical and financial. It was suggested that a grant awareness brochure be created once the grant program is re-established.

Technical Assistance to Local Units of Government (tool kits; site visits, issues) The group felt there should be more expertise available to small communities. This echoed the results of the 1998 WIU study on the Community Forestry needs of small communities. As technology progresses, on-line technical interactive assistance should be made available. There was concern about the lack of adequate program infrastructure due to the IDNR having no dedicated Regional urban and community forestry specialist. There was interest in having more internships for students to help district foresters.

Education/Training and Outreach Suggestions It was recognized by the group the tremendous difference in educational/training needs between upstate and downstate Illinois. Upstate requires more bilingual training sessions/tools, etc. Downstate areas could benefit from basic education of city planners and elected officials about the value of trees to their communities. Concern was voiced on getting coordinated statewide regulations and getting a Natural Resources protection plan implemented. Since 90% of the urban forest is on private land within municipal boundaries, the Committee thought IDNR should provide information on the cost effectiveness of tree maintenance and its benefits regarding tree health and personal safety that result. Additionally, academics pointed out the need to start basic science, botany, arboriculture/urban forestry awareness in grade school and continuing through high school to educate our future caretakers.

Partnership opportunities (financial and/or information sharing) The group saw a need for continuing the financial partnerships between government and green industry, utilities, and private/corporate entities (e.g. BP). Strengthen partnerships through public education efforts with utilities. The existing Regional Urban Forestry Councils were thought to be a strong partnership mechanism.

Regional Urban and Community Forestry Council Operations It was felt that in the future more basic structure and guidelines need to be established for the Regional Councils across Illinois. These entities can possibly partner and coordinate the education and volunteers of particular areas. The time has come to have annual/biannual meetings of officers from all councils to discuss the goals, objectives, accomplishments, and state wide strategies of the Regional Councils.

Legislative Needs The group saw a need for legislators to provide leadership in the areas of 1) Capital improvements - tree preservation; 2) Growth Legislation protection of trees, wetlands and open space; and 3) Standard nuisance abatement ordinances/statutes.

APPENDIX B – BLUE RIBBON COMMITTEE FINDINGS cont.

Critical Issues Actions From the October, 2001 Critical Issues Forum the following issues emerged: Urban Sprawl/Trees and Development; Community Forests and Open Space; Tree Care Issues; Tree Planting Stock; Residual Wood Utilization; Financial assistance to local units of government; Technical assistance/educational outreach to local units of government; and strong University Programs. The Blue Ribbon Committee emphasized the need to focus on 1) Destruction of topsoil with development; 2) Planting stock specifications; and 3) New construction developments with adequate tree planting spaces (curb to sidewalk planting area).

DNR (Hierarchy/Structure/Conservation Congress) Under the heading of DNR structure, again the need for a regional urban and community forestry specialist was discussed. The constituents were concerned that the numerous reorganizations within the Department had reduced the ability of constituents to understand the Agency's structure, especially as it related to IDNR working with partners/cooperators.

CORE Urban and Community Forestry Program (Critical Needs vs. Desirable components) The consensus was that IDNR needs to provide a state program administrator, coupled with regional staff and local councils made up of government and citizen members. Additionally, IDNR should provide grants to municipalities and non-profits to carry out recommended USDA FS guidelines. It was suggested that IDNR/State of Illinois work toward self-funded state programs that are not dependent on federal dollars or levels of funding. Several examples of neighboring states with fewer communities and less of a population/metropolitan base were cited as models.

OTHER One participant felt that there was a need to implement "measures of success" (e.g. outcome-based evaluations)

Illinois Urban and Community Forestry Blue Ribbon Committee also conducted a *Visioning Session* where the challenge was to address the question, "Over the next ten years what do you think the Urban and Community Forestry Program and its Service Outreach should look like?" There were three groups responding as follows:

The first group would like to establish a "Municipal Forester's Council" that was modeled after the Forestry Development Council's model. The council focus would be on urban and community forestry needs. It would be comprised of members that had an ongoing interest in maintaining a quality urban and community forestry program in Illinois. The group was concerned about the lack of a bona fide voice for urban forestry since the current Council had only one or two representatives out of twenty-seven positions.

Additionally, they would like to see the implementation of a unified code/standards for tree planting, engineering, and maintenance. They thought there should be at least minimum standards established and promoted. One area of tremendous interest is tree preservation. They would like to see Tree Preservation Ordinances that address public, private, and developer accountability.

Public educational outreach was the first group's final suggestion. Potential topics include: roots in the urban environment and volunteer training/technical information for motivated, influential, educated citizens.

APPENDIX B – BLUE RIBBON COMMITTEE FINDINGS cont.

The second group would like to see “Regional URBAN Foresters!.” They suggested these positions be connected to Regional Offices and that the people hired have multiple specialty areas. They thought these individuals could focus on providing technical assistance on development, preservation, soils, watershed, and education. They felt the offices and urban foresters should be given enough freedom to be able to develop a plan of action for a particular region based on the specialized needs of that region. They suggested the oversight and administration be centralized and managed from Springfield.

This group encouraged that standardized regions in districts (federal and state levels) be created so that there was better inter-conductivity of information between agencies and regions. Another suggestion to help increase information sharing and outreach was the creation of an interactive “Ask Jeeves/ask the expert” website dedicated to urban forestry needs.

Over the next decade they would like to see the Urban and Community Forestry Program become self-funded through local or state based initiatives!

The group thought there needed to be additional support from the academic realm as well as stronger ties between colleges and practitioners. This would facilitate academics so they could better train the future work force about the needs of the urban forestry industry. They felt that the educational effort needed to start at the early educational levels to help develop a strong higher education pool of talent. Younger audiences need education also. Formal urban forestry and arboricultural training needs to continue to be provided to Public Works departments.

The third group felt that we must focus on maintaining the strong urban and community forestry program that we currently have. Resources for outreach, education, and awards by state urban and community forestry staff through the Urban and Community Forestry website, Prairie Tree Companion, Tree City USA, Arbor Day Poster Contest and educational outreach programs should be maintained and supported financially.

Training in urban and community forestry for municipal staff (i.e. public works staff) should continue. Outreach to private homeowners/landowners on the care of their urban trees and the urban forest as a whole should continue.

To strengthen current efforts the group thought that a fully-staffed urban and community forestry program with at least: a) one urban and/or community forester/region (at a position equivalent to District Forester); and b) A coordinator at regional level with that person reporting to the Springfield Urban and Community Forestry Program Administrator. With this new staffing, more education for community leaders and developers (including demonstrating increased value of property) could be provided. They thought the best way to accomplish this was to flatten the bureaucracy of the current decentralized hierarchy within the Office of Resource Conservation; centralizing program management; and putting field urban foresters in place. This way more technical assistance and tree care/tree benefits information could be disseminated into the delivery of services on the front line. Dedicated Urban and Community Forestry staff could also help coordinate efforts of existing organizations, not-for-profits, and help implement expectation guidelines for Urban and Community Forestry Councils. Also recommended was funding the Urban and Community Forestry Grant Program and requiring collaboration between not-for-profits and municipalities.

APPENDIX B – BLUE RIBBON COMMITTEE FINDINGS cont.

Outside the singular realm of IDNR's urban and community forestry program, but of concern to the bigger picture of urban forestry and natural resources management in communities, the third group made the following suggestions: 1) Provide tax subsidies for trees not cut down in new developments; 2) Encourage municipalities to adopt and enforce tree ordinances with tax incentives; 3) Put teeth into the enforcement of "regulation" of natural resources review by SWCD's; 4) Put Teeth into the enforcement of storm water regulations 5) Pass legislation for local natural resource inventory and protection (authorization and money); 6) Increase funding for open space and forest land acquisition; 7) Pass legislation requiring open space preservation as a part of every development.

This report was shared at the Illinois Urban Initiatives meeting on September 4, 2002. At the IDNR Urban Initiatives meeting it was learned that both potential candidates for governor have balanced growth as a part of their initiatives.

Blue Ribbon Team

September 3, 2002 Attendees/post attendees:

Kathy Andria, American Bottom Conservancy; Scott Bretthauer, Jeff Nack, Naperville Park District; Randy Callison; Dave Close, SIU; Ron Coombs; Glenda Daniel, Openlands Project; Tom Dilley; Christopher Dunn, The Morton Arboretum; Charlie Geideman, Tom Green, Western Illinois University; John Lough, City of Chicago; Elroy Limmer, Peoria Park District; Paul Marien/Kathy Merner, Macon County Conservation District; Steve Messerli, Lake County Forest Preserve District; Kelly J. Murray; Hal Oberheide; John C. Potts, Champaign Forest Preserve District; Jim Puentes ; Kim St. John, Prairie Rivers RC&D; Catherine Stevens; Tim Tozak.

APPENDIX C – CRITICAL ISSUES FORUM RESULTS

APPENDIX C – ILLINOIS URBAN AND COMMUNITY FORESTRY CRITICAL ISSUES FORUM RESULTS

Illinois Urban and Community Forestry Critical Issues Forum

Sixty people took time out of their busy schedule to participate in Illinois First Annual Urban and Community Forestry Critical Issues Forum. The forum included presentations on the status of Illinois urban forestry, defining urban and community forestry, local examples of urban and community forestry programs and integrating natural resources into your community development projects.

Most of the day was spent discussing twenty-four topics in detail and then voting on those that were of the highest priority to the participants. In order of overall priority Illinois critical issues in urban and community forestry are:

- 1) Encourage local decision makers, planners, developers and local foresters to develop an integrated approach that includes trees as an essential part of the development process.
- 2) Awareness, information and informal public education needs to be provided to Illinois citizens on urban forestry and the green industry.
- 3) Wood waste disposal and residual wood utilization needs further study and market analysis. Residual wood as a value added product or energy strategy needs to be considered.
- 4) There is an ongoing need to provide formal education for Illinois youth and teachers on trees.
- 5) Technically sound tree care is important to the safety of citizens and the health of our urban forests.
- 6) Communities need guidelines to identify quality planting stock and to establish and implement good tree planting standards.
- 7) Benefits of community forests and open space is often undervalued or overlooked.
- 8) Communities need technical assistance to manage their community's natural resources.
- 9) Local and state decision makers need to be the focus of information on urban forestry and the positive cost benefit ratio of tree care programs.
- 10) Communities and urban areas need assistance in establishing and maintaining the health and integrity of their forest resources and local community forestry programs.

Also ranking in the top half of the issues was the need for increased financial resources in urban and community forestry to support local community forestry programs plus the issue of quality university programs in urban and community forestry.

There was a difference in the top issues for the North and Central part of the state vs. the Southern part of the state. In both the northern and central part of the state the issue on trees and development was number one. In the Southern part of the state, the top issue was "local and state decision makers need to be the focus of information on urban forestry and the positive cost benefit ration of tree care programs."

In the Northern part of the state (North of I-80) the issues next four issues were 2) residual wood, 3) Public education, and 4) youth education.

In the Central part of the state, the second priority issue was public education. There was a three way tie for third place with the issues being: Communities need technical assistance to manage their community's natural resources; Communities and urban areas need assistance in establishing and maintaining the health and integrity of their forest resources and local programs; and residual wood utilization

The Southern part of the state had a three way tie for second place with the issues being: youth education, public education, and tree planting stock.

Additional input will be secured at the Illinois Arborist Association meeting and the Tree City USA Conference and Awards Ceremony.

ILLINOIS CRITICAL ISSUES FORUM

Results:

- 1) #24 Development and trees
- 2) #4 Public Ed to Citizens on urban forestry and green industry
- 3) #17 Residual Wood utilization
- 4) #1 Youth Education
- 5) #20 Tree Care
- 6) #19 Planting Stock
- 7) #9 Benefits are overlooked and undervalued
- 8) #12 Communities Need Technical Assistance
- 9) #11 Local Decision makers need Cost/Benefit Analysis
- 10) #14 Sustain the Health and Integrity of Local Forest Resources through Assistance

SESSION I - EDUCATION/TRAINING&AWARENESS/COMMUNICATIONS

EDUCATION

- 1) There is an ongoing need to provide formal educational outreach for Illinois youth and teachers on trees.
- 2) Quality university programs in urban forestry are needed to meet the growing demand for green industry services.
- 3) Support research for the improvement of urban and community forestry.

TRAINING & AWARENESS

- 4) Awareness, information and informal public education needs to be provided to Illinois citizens on urban forestry and the green industry.
- 5) Urban and community forestry programs are needed to help reduce long-term costs in utility line-tree conflict, flood and storm mitigation, insect/disease issues and energy consumption.

COMMUNICATIONS

- 6) Urban forestry interests need to identify and create mutually beneficial networks of communication with shareholders who have compatible urban forestry and social issues.
- 7) Explore opportunities to create positive communications and project partnerships between Illinois based utility companies (both small local municipal utilities and larger companies such as Cilco, Com Ed, CIPS, IP, Ameran, Mid American, etc.) and local units of government.

APPENDIX C – CRITICAL ISSUES FORUM RESULTS

SESSION II - FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE/ECONOMIC IMPACT

FINANCIAL

8) Increased Financial resources in urban and community forestry are needed to continue to provide support to local urban and community forestry programs at all levels of development.

ECONOMIC

9) The benefits of community forests and open space is often undervalued or overlooked.

10) The green industry/urban forest are a hidden economic force in agriculture.

11) Local and state decision makers need to be the focus of information on urban forestry and the positive cost benefit ratio of tree care programs.

SESSION II cont. - TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

12) Communities need technical assistance to manage their community's natural resources.

13) Promote urban and community forestry practices by providing professional training and technical outreach enhancement through education, technology transfer, and research that will encourage technically sound tree management practices.

SESSION III - SUSTAINABLE RESOURCES/ECOSYSTEMS

NOTE: ARBORICULTURE will be discussed FIRST then SUSTAINABLE RESOURCES.

14) To sustain the health and integrity of their forest resources, Communities and urban areas need assistance in establishing and maintaining local community forestry programs.

15) Urban sprawl continues to impact natural resources and their functions in and around communities including the urban watersheds.

16) Urban forests in heavily populated areas are experiencing environmental degradation.

17) Wood waste disposal and residual wood utilization needs further study and market analysis because of the supply of wood chips created by compliance with the law eliminating landscape debris in landfills. In addition, consideration of residual wood as an energy strategy to help our nation become energy efficient needs to be considered.

18) Management of the urban forest requires focusing on additional environmental hazards that create environmental injustices in redeveloping areas such as East St. Louis, Chicago industrial areas.(USDA FS), (ESLEC 9/96), (NEUF)

SESSION III cont. -ARBORICULTURE

19) Communities need guidelines to identify quality planting stock and to establish and implement good tree planting standards.

20) Technically sound tree care is important to the safety of citizens and the health of our urban forests.

APPENDIX C – CRITICAL ISSUES FORUM RESULTS

SESSION IV - LEADERSHIP

21) Urban forestry interests need to encourage the recognition of local urban/community forestry programs that follow established standards or participate in local community natural resources enhancement programs.

22) Urban forestry leadership growth needs to be expanded.

23) Promote training and education to development and expand the tree advocacy role/capabilities of volunteer organizations.

24) Encourage local decision makers, planners, developers, and local foresters to develop an integrated approach that includes trees as an essential part of the development process.

APPENDIX D – EXAMPLES OF URBAN FORESTRY GOALS FROM MIDWEST STATES:

Promote an understanding of urban forestry by recognizing, educating, and informing individuals and groups.

Develop guidelines for tree selection, planting, and care that are technically correct.

Promote urban forestry legislation and act as legislative resources at all levels of the government within Illinois

Public Awareness – desired state (DS)The public understands the importance and value of urban forests and the need for sound ecosystem based forest management in the urban and traditional forest setting.

Active Management – DS- All communities actively managing their urban forest ecosystem for maximum benefit to the people and the environment

RESEARCH AND EDUCATION – DS All practitioners are knowledgeable in state of art urban forestry management practices.

TECHNICAL SUPPORT – DS Community forest management programs have all necessary technical direction, support and assistance.

PROGRAM SUPPORT – DS community forestry programs have strong governmental and popular support

PARTNERSHIPS – DS Partnerships are an integral part of urban forest ecosystem management.

COORDINATION AND COOPERATION – DS – All who impact the urban forest ecosystem work cooperatively toward sound resource management.

STATE PLAN – DS A dynamic state plan directs urban and forest ecosystem management.

Improve conditions of existing urban and community forestry trees/forests

Expand tree planting in urban and community areas

Improve maintenance of community forestry trees/forests

Promote species diversity and the need for proper placement in the landscape

Expand urban and community forestry education.

Expand and nurture volunteer participation

Expand delivery of technical assistance

Promote public and private funding for urban and community forestry.

Promote an understanding of urban forestry by recognizing, educating, and informing individuals and groups.

Develop guidelines for tree selection, planting, and care that are technically correct.

Promote urban forestry legislation and act as legislative resources at all levels of the government within Illinois

Public Awareness – desired state (DS) The public understands the importance and value of urban forests and the need for sound ecosystem based forest management in the urban and traditional forest setting.

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Improve conditions of existing urban and community forestry trees/forests

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Expand urban and community forestry education.

Expand and nurture volunteer participation

Expand delivery of technical assistance

Promote public and private funding for urban and community forestry.