

Proposal: 2017 Illinois Forestry Summit - *TREE*vitalizing Illinois

Illinois has many resources and participants in forestry and urban forestry. To build on the upcoming publication of "2017 Illinois Forest Action Plan", a summit or meeting would allow for all stakeholders across Illinois to join and discuss implementation strategies and barriers to state objectives, financial programs, and implementation strategies. Individual contributions of partners across the state can be maximized with the development of a cohesive state mission and goal. Increased collaboration will assist with the development of much needed public awareness campaigns to generate discussion and buy-in statewide.

Audience: Partner and interested organizations who impact and have influence on forestry initiatives in Illinois.

Format options:

- One to two day conference to facilitate sharing of ideas and brainstorming future objectives for rural to urban forestry programs for Illinois. Roundtable discussions and facilitated sessions to develop statewide mission, goal, and implementation strategy. Facilitated sessions on how to maximize current financial resources and collaborative opportunities for grant applications.
- Survey statewide groups ahead of meeting: state action plan goals. Who is doing what? Mission alignment, who uses action plan and why?
- Multiple meetings at a smaller scale by region, followed by monthly webinars for updates
- Half day meet & greet to introduce statewide plans and goals
- Half or whole day program where each group does a short presentation introducing what they are doing, their goals and then how they connect to State Action Plan

Topics: Launch (new) State Forest Action Plan
- Implementation plan and timeline
Collaborations and partnerships
Oak ecosystems and their decline in the state
Rural to urban interface
Education and engagement of private property owners
Forest Health Monitoring: Invasive pests and diseases
Youth engagement
Entry level professional training and engagement
State funding

Location: Central Illinois, TBD

Timing: Fall 2017/Winter 2018

Budget: (attached) planning costs, survey development and tracking, promotion and registration, site, catering, AV, handouts,

Objectives: Facilitate open communication between all forestry partners, increase state funding, identify additional funding opportunities, develop outreach plan to raise awareness, build collaboration, and forge new partnerships. Strengthen the positions of the Urban Forestry Committee and Illinois Forestry Development Council to advocate for the Illinois forest

Suggested Invitees:

Forestry Development Council	Illinois Arborist Association	Illinois Department of Agriculture
Illinois DNR	The Morton Arboretum	Chicago Wilderness
US Forest Service	Chicago Region Trees Initiative	University of Illinois Ext. Forestry
Illinois Forestry Association	Trees Forever	Openlands
Illinois Urban Forestry Committee	Illinois Walnut Growers	Midwest Invasive Plant Network
Southern Illinois University	University of Illinois	Illinois Wood Utilization Team
	IL Chapter of The Wildlife Society	
IL Chapter of the Society of American Foresters	Turkey Federation	NRCS, Illinois Soil & Water Conservation Districts
International Society of Arboriculture	Fishing groups	The Nature Conservancy
	Camping/outdoor enthusiasts	Sierra Club
	Audubon	
	Paddler organizations	