



Illinois Department of Natural Resources

One Natural Resources Way Springfield, Illinois 62702-1271
www.dnr.illinois.gov

Bruce Rauner, Governor
Wayne A. Rosenthal, Acting Director

ILLINOIS URBAN AND COMMUNITY FORESTRY GRANT

March 24, 2015

Dear Potential Grant Applicant:

The Department of Natural Resources, Office of Resource Conservation in cooperation with the U.S. Forest Service, is again providing grants to local units of government with funding from the U. S. Department of Agriculture's Urban and Community Forestry Assistance Program (CFDA#10.675) under the authority of 30 ILCS 735/1, et.seq., Urban and Community Forestry Assistance Act. Nearly \$250,000 has been allocated for the implementation of the Urban Forestry Assistance Act Grants. Applicants may submit an Urban/Community Forestry Proposal for assistance under the provisions of this Act.

Requests for grant assistance shall include, but not be limited to, those activities that will implement a portion of the applicant's forestry program or forestry management plan or will lead to the development of a forestry management plan for a unit of local government. These funds are critical to the Department of Natural Resources' ability to assist local units of government with improvements to the quality of the environment in forest and green space areas where people live. Through these funds, IDNR helps local governmental units improve management strategies and preserve urban/community forest resources. These resources provide for the common good, health, welfare, and safety of the citizens of this State. Through the use of the federal USDA FS Urban and Community Forestry funding and this grant program together we are causing the creation of employment opportunities in nursery and arboricultural industries. With consideration of Executive Order #11, 2009, this grant helps to maximize the potential of tree and vegetation cover in reducing energy consumption and many other important "green" benefits.

Priority projects for this grant cycle will be based on emerging urban forestry issues including: developing and enhancing local community forestry programs (tree care ordinances and tree inventories/management plans), and Emerald Ash Borer Mitigation/Reforestation and Storm Mitigation projects. The maximum grant award to one local unit of government is **\$12,500**. Not-for-profit organizations may jointly apply with a local unit of government for these funds. The program is a 50/50 cost-share reimbursement program. Expenditures must be (at a minimum) matched equally.

Enclosed with this letter is the Urban and Community Forestry Grant Application. To be considered for funding, the application with the required support documents is due in this office by **the close of business on May 25, 2015**. Faxed copies will not be accepted. **Scanned and e-mailed applications with all associated attachments will be accepted if submitted by close of business on May 25, 2015**. Contract awards are anticipated to begin in July, 2015 for SFY2016. Questions concerning this grant program can be directed to: Reinee Hildebrandt, Urban Conservation Program Administrator of the Office of Resource Conservation at 217/785-8771 (office).

Sincerely,

Wayne Rosenthal, Director
Illinois Department of Natural Resources

Enclosure: URBAN AND COMMUNITY FORESTRY GRANT PACKET