



*NORTHWEST INDIANA TREE
PLANTING CONSORTIUM
Expanding and Stewarding Regional Forest
Canopy*

An aerial photograph showing a coastal landscape. On the left, a large body of water (likely a lake or bay) meets a sandy beach. To the right of the beach is a dense forest. In the foreground, there is a residential area with several houses and a winding road. A large, dark blue pond or reservoir is visible in the middle ground, surrounded by trees and some buildings. The sky is clear and blue.

Welcome!

USING MICROSOFT TEAMS

Please keep your MIC muted during the presentation.

- Feel free to RAISE HAND or use the CHAT

Feel free to keep your camera ON or OFF.

For subtitles, please select LANGUAGE AND SPEECH, then TURN ON LIVE CAPTIONS.

TODAY'S AGENDA

I. Introductions

II. Project Updates

III. Guest Presentations

A. Richard Underkofler – Highland Tree Board

B. Will Ayersman (Davey Resource Group) – TreeKeeper Canopy

IV. Community Updates

V. Upcoming Programs, Events and Grants

VI. Next Steps



Introductions

COMMUNITIES & PARTNERS





Project Updates

DEMONSTRATION SITES

387 seedlings, 437 saplings = 824 trees total, 32 species

Sources:

- Kankakee Nursery Co.
- IN DNR
- Niemeyer's Landscape Supply
- Woody Warehouse
- Siltworm Inc. (donation)

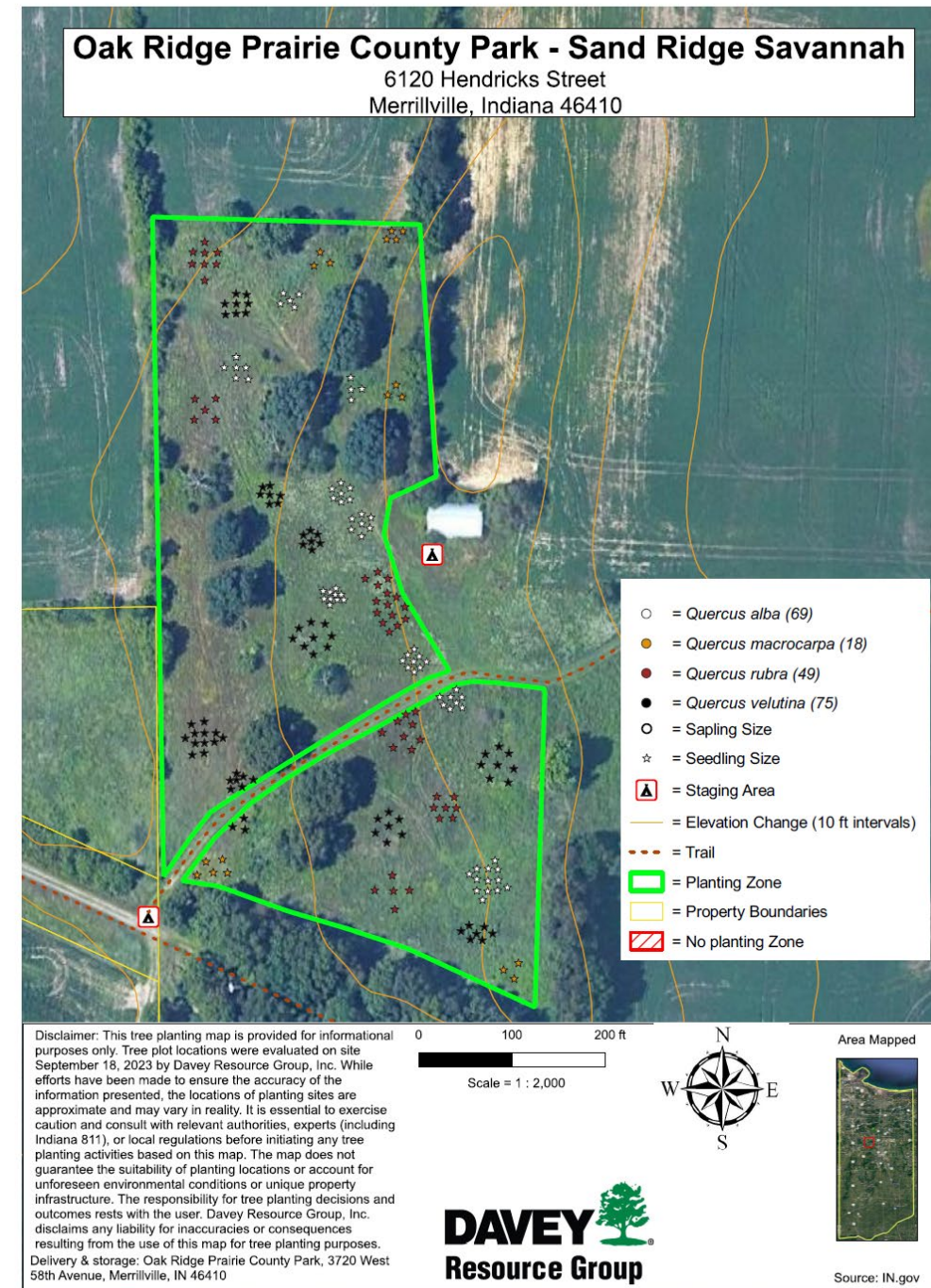
Planting dates: Summer – Fall 2024



DEMONSTRATION SITES

Oak Ridge Prairie County Park - Sand Ridge Savanna (344 trees)

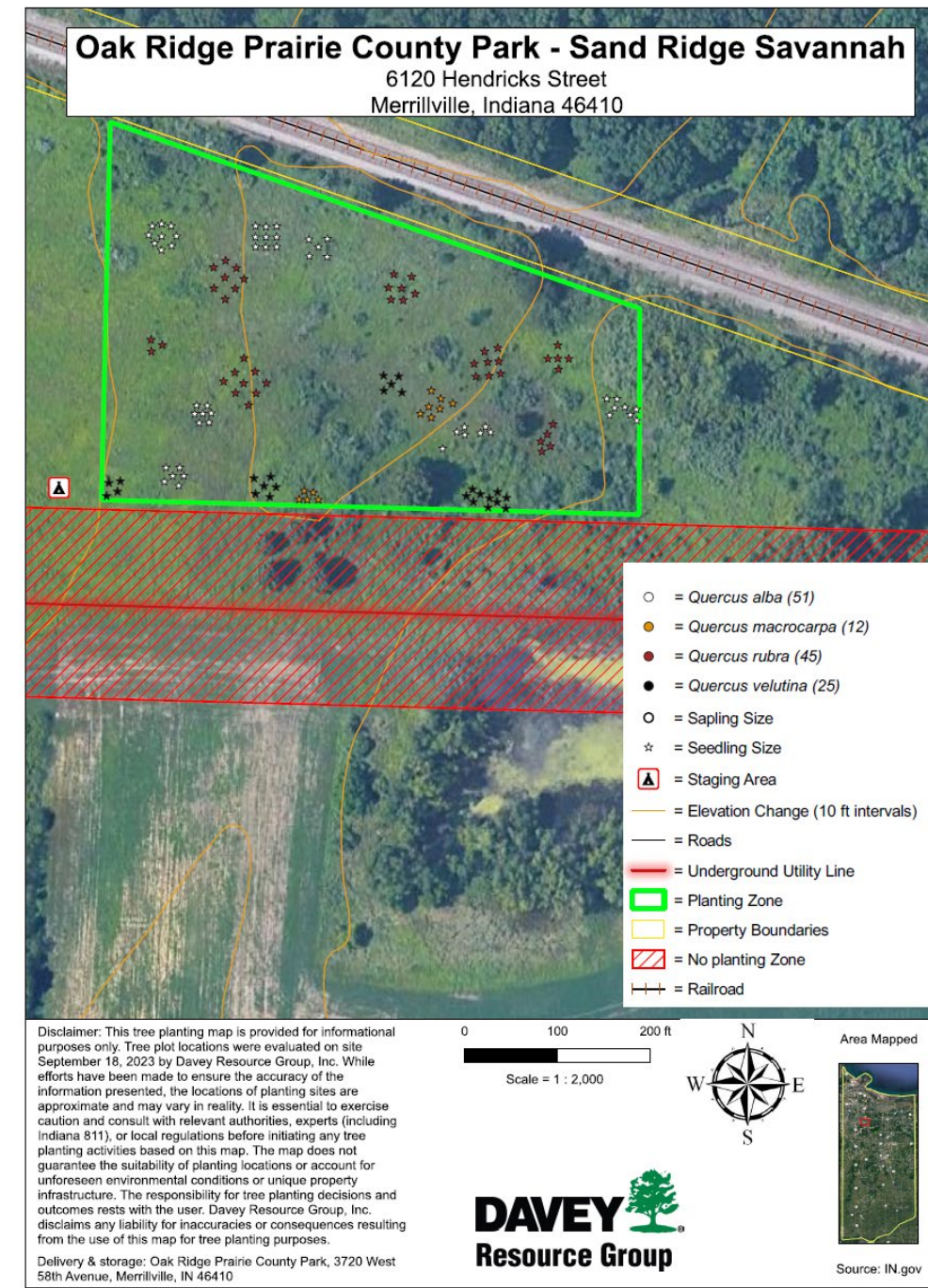
- White Oak – 120 seedlings
- Bur Oak – 30 seedlings
- Red Oak – 94 seedlings
- Black Oak – 100 seedlings



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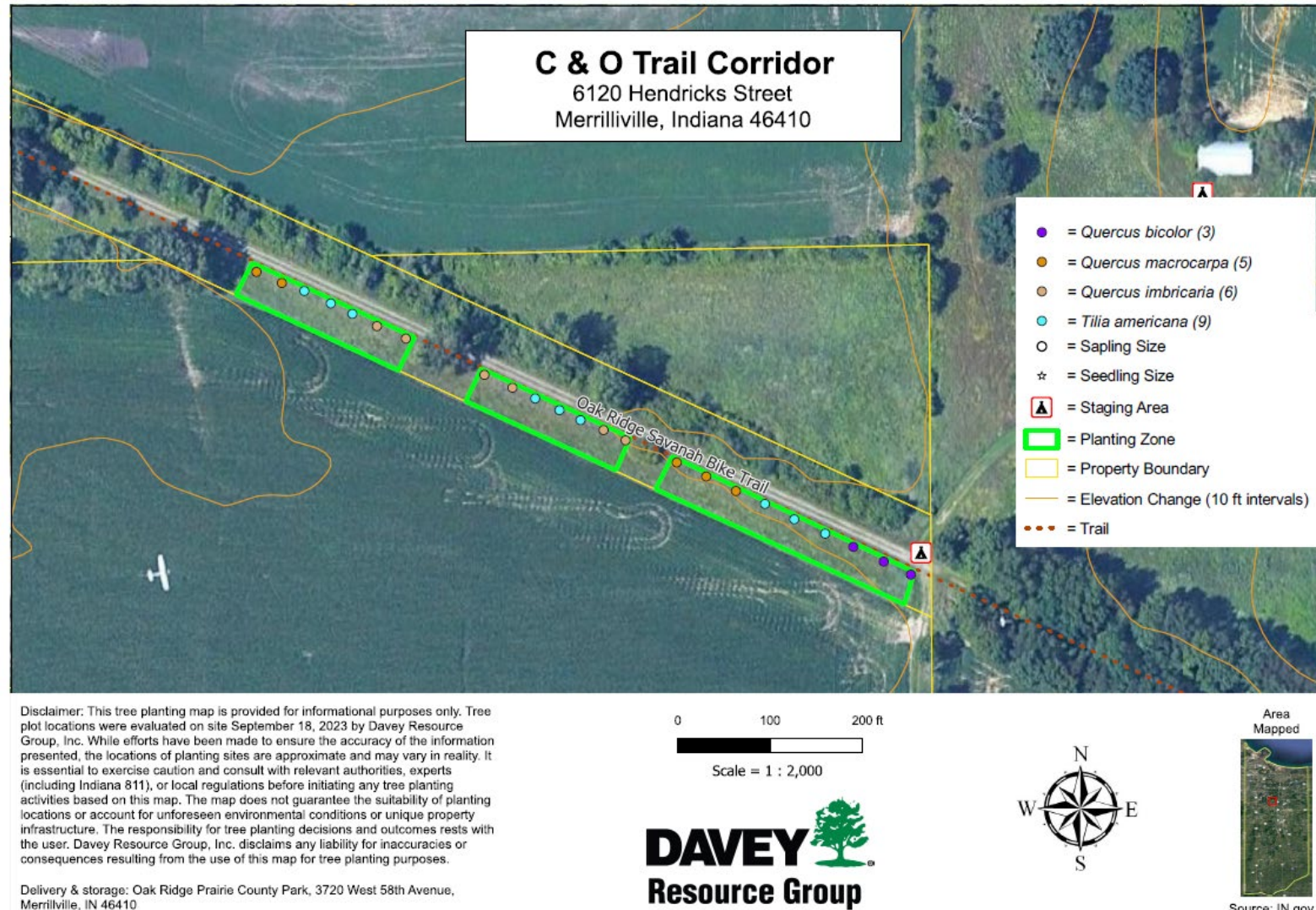
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DEMONSTRATION SITES

Oak Ridge Savanna Bike Trail (101 trees)

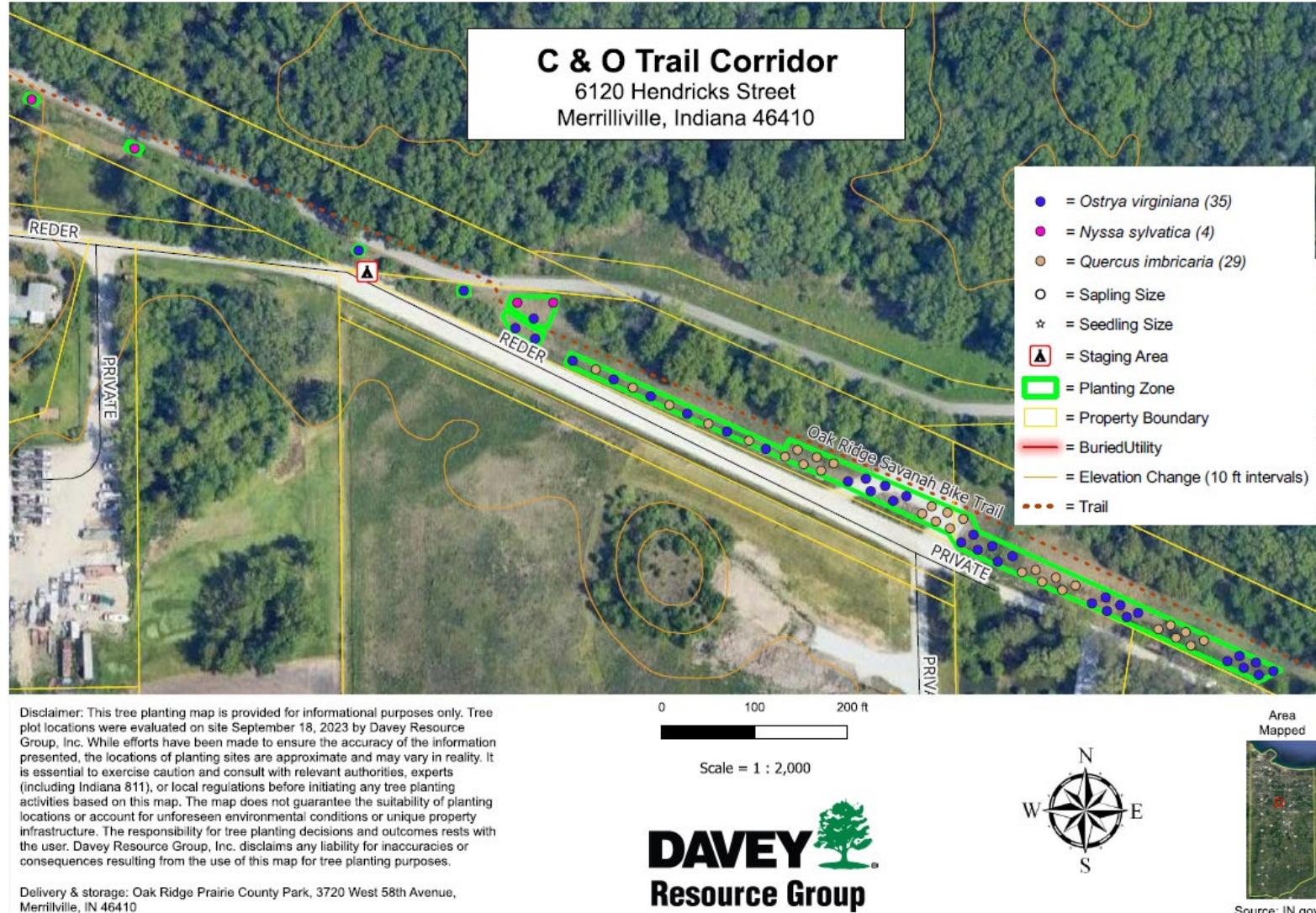
- Hophornbeam – 35
- White Oak – 3
- Swamp White Oak – 3
- Shingle Oak – 40
- Bur Oak – 5
- Am. Linden – 9
- Witch-hazel – 2
- Black Gum - 4



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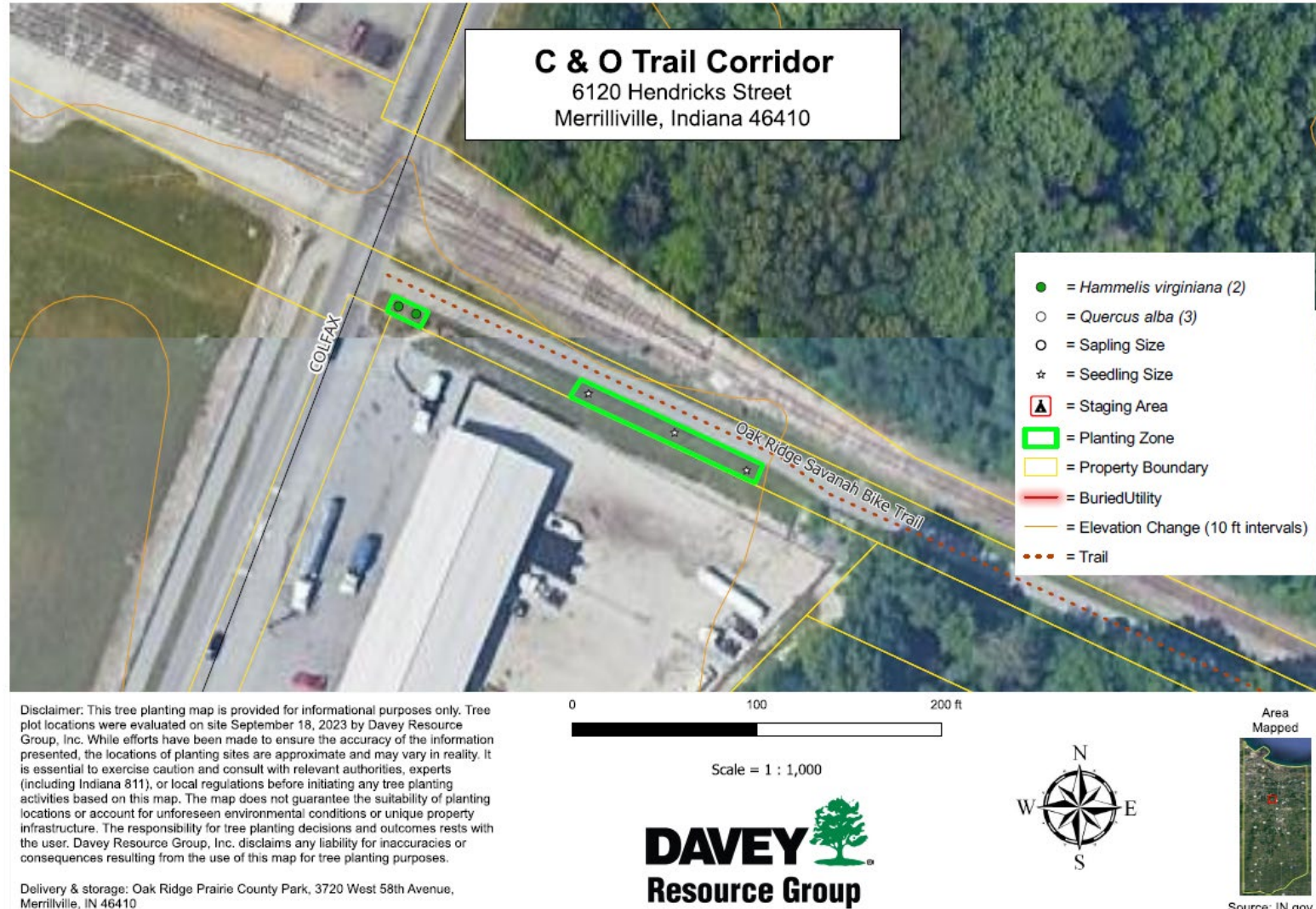
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DEMONSTRATION SITES

Turkey Creek Golf Course (105 trees)

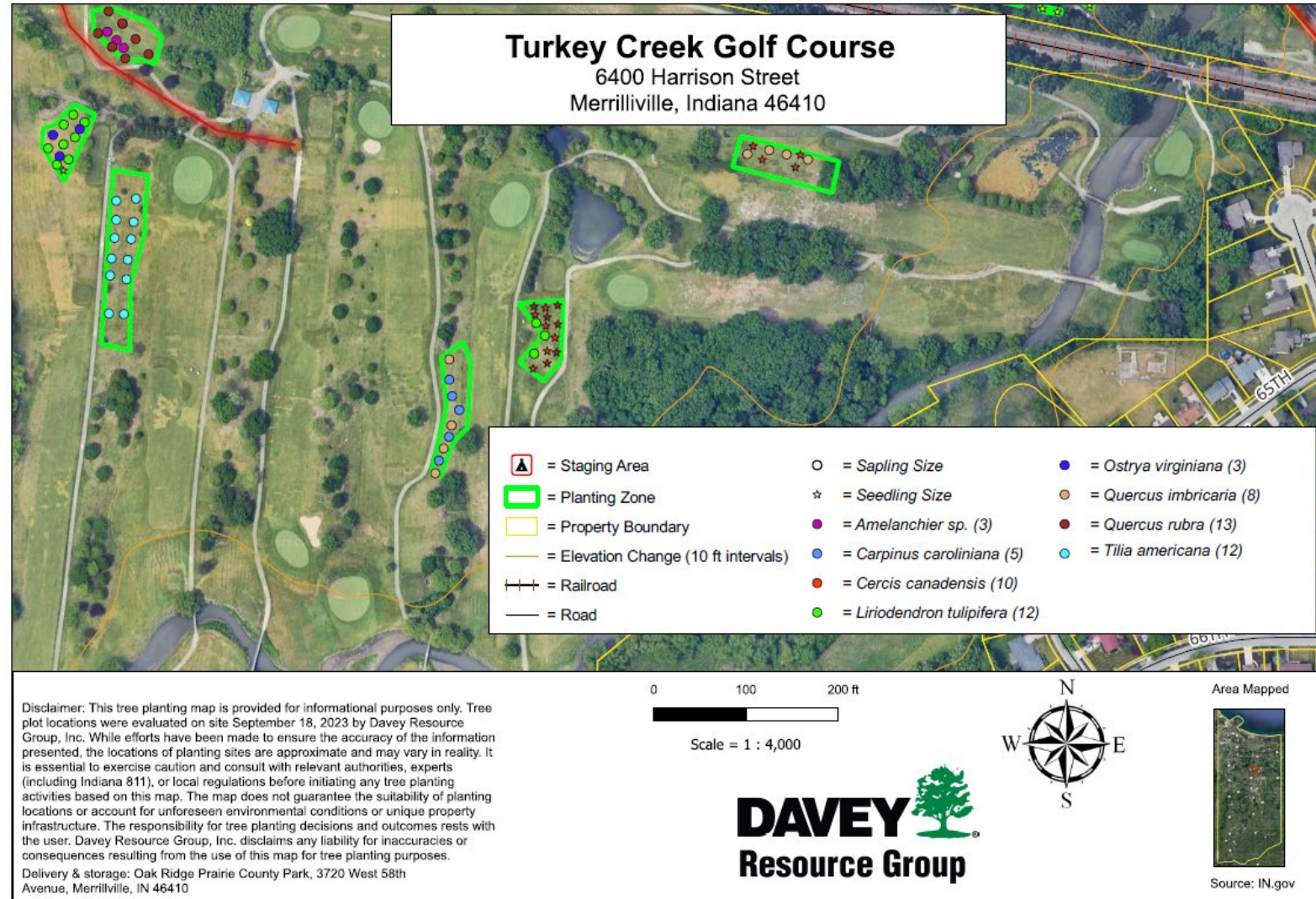
- Serviceberry – 3
- Hornbeam – 5
- Redbud – 12
- Tulip – 14
- Hophornbeam – 10
- Shingle Oak – 14
- Bur Oak – 2
- Red Oak – 17
- Bald Cypress – 10
- Am. Linden - 18



DEMONSTRATION SITES

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- Redbud – 12
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- Am. Linden - 18



DEMONSTRATION SITES

Rosenbaum Park and Pruzin Center Park Orchards (263 trees)

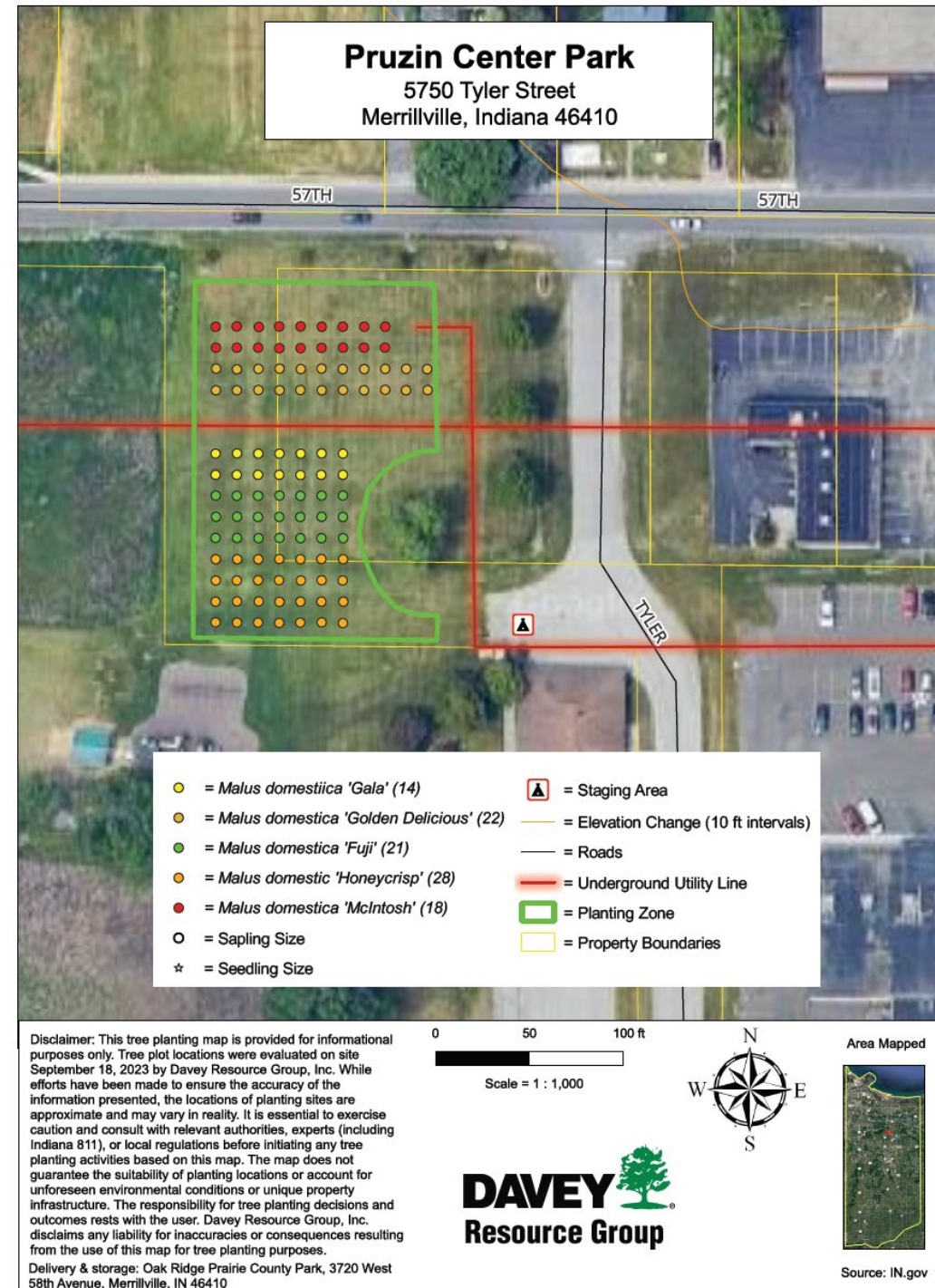
- Gala Apple – 46
- Golden Delicious Apple – 54
- Fuji Apple – 53
- Honeycrisp – 74
- Macintosh Apple - 36



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- Fuji Apple – 53
- Honeycrisp – 74
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BEST MGMT PRACTICE (BMP) TOOLKIT

Planting Planning

Planting Best Practices

Maintenance Best Practices

Tree City USA Recognition

Appendix I: Tree Species Selection Guide

Appendix II: Tree Planting Guides

Appendix III: Tree Maintenance Guides

Appendix IV: Self-Guided Assessment of Forestry Practices

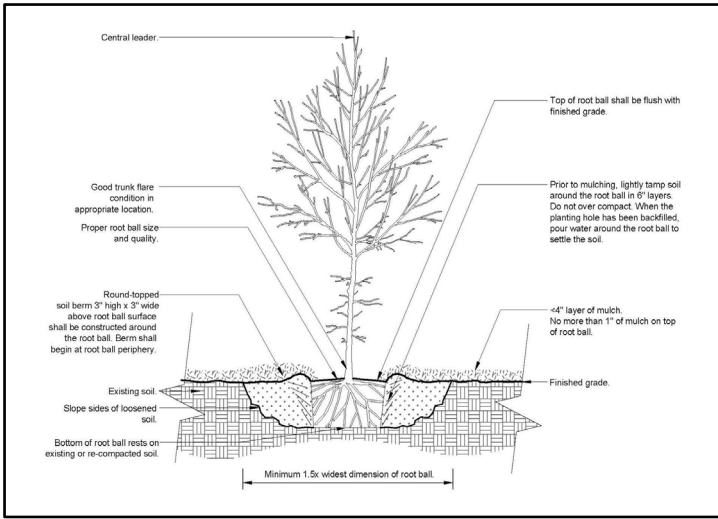


Image source: Davey Resource Group

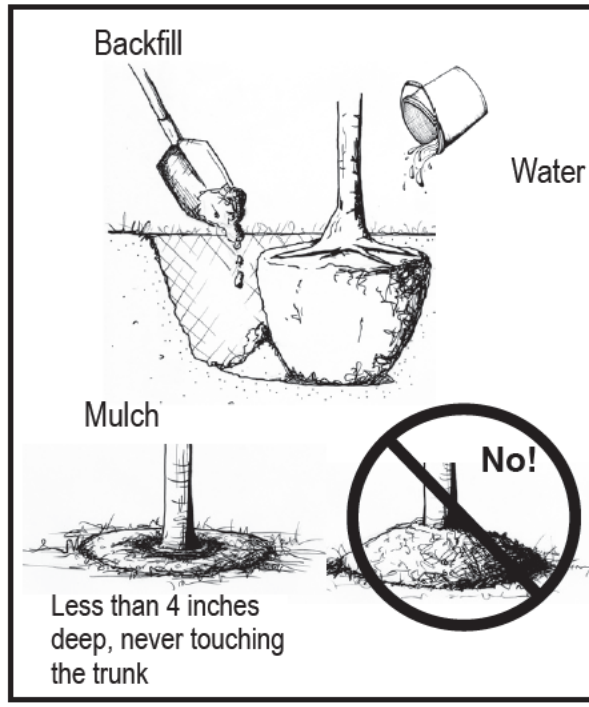


Image source: USFS Tree Ownership Guide

Pruning Tools

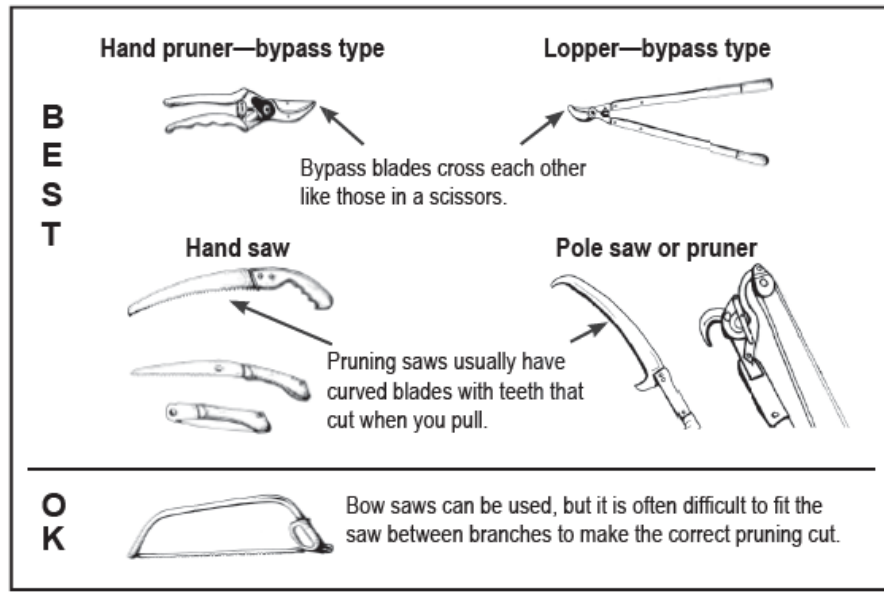


Image source: USFS Tree Ownership Guide

UPCOMING TPC TRAININGS

Tree Planting and Maintenance for Private Owners (virtual)

- Monday, 04/22/24

Train the Trainer – Tree Planting and Maintenance

- Tuesday, 05/07/24
- Dean and Barbara White Community Center (6600 Broadway, Merrillville, IN 46410): 9:30am - 10:30am
- Outdoor: 11am – 12:30pm

Mature Tree Maintenance Training

- Date TBD, June 2024



TREE PLANTING & MAINTENANCE VIRTUAL TRAINING

- Monday, 04/22/24
- 10am EST/ 9am CST
- [Register here for free!](#)

delta
institute



DAVEY
RESOURCE GROUP

NORTHWEST INDIANA TREE PLANTING CONSORTIUM

Calling all private tree owners & volunteers interested in maintaining their community's urban forest!

TREE PLANTING & MAINTENANCE

Free online training

Aren Flint, ISA-Certified Arborist® - ISA Tree Risk Assessment-Qualified will instruct on:

- tree planting planning
- planting techniques
- pruning
- soil care & nutrition
- pest & disease management
- defect observation & mitigation

bit.ly/3Tpfglw



April 22, 2024 @ 9AM CST

Sign up today: bit.ly/3Tpfglw

Questions about the event may be sent to
LChamberlain@Delta-Institute.org

COMMUNITY SURVEYS

Why collect stakeholder feedback?

- Target specific communities or geographies
- Cater to specific goals of a community.
- Identify common **priorities** for tree planting (e.g., location, species), engagement opportunities, economic and environmental benefits, and potential **concerns**, and to find ways to balance these priorities.
- Survey results can inform the development of municipal **prioritized planting plans**.

The TPC can assist you! Use our base survey.

- Multiple choice, short answer, demographic information, etc.



*Rich Underkofler –
Highland Tree Board*

HIGHLAND TREE BOARD – ANNUAL REPORT

MEMORANDUM

To: Members of the Highland Town Council & Clerk-Treasurer
Copy: Department Heads, Other Interested Persons
Frm: Highland Tree Board
Date: February 14, 2024
Subject: Tree Board 2023 Annual Report

This report lists facts and board accomplishments for the 2023 calendar year. Questions and requests for more information may be directed to Secretary Richard Underkofler at email runderkofler76@comcast.net or mobile (312) 550-4478.

MISSION

The Tree Board was created in 2018 at Chapter 8.25 of the Highland Municipal Code to serve as an advocacy and advisory group to become a catalyst for active urban forest resource management within the community.

BOARD

Members serve for a term of three years expiring on the first Monday in January of the third year after appointment. The board is composed of up to seven members who are nominated by members of the town council and appointed by the council president. The members serve without pay and must live within the town of Highland. The board chairperson is selected by the council president from the membership of the board. The chairperson appoints the vice chairperson and secretary with the approval of the board. Up to two members of the board may be members of the Highland High School Sustainability Club in their junior or senior years. Mary Ann Brunt was appointed to a 1-year term 9/25/23. The terms of Joan Robuck and Bernie Zemen expired.

Current membership and terms:

Chairperson: James Colias – Term expires January 2026

Vice Chairperson: Ron Jackowski – Term expires January 2026

Secretary: Richard Underkofler – Term expires January 2025

Member: Blane Roberts – Term expires January 2025

Member: Mary Ann Brunt – Term expires January 2027

Town Council Liaison: Alex Robertson

If Alex Robertson can be characterized as a board member like his predecessor Bernie Zemen, one board member vacancy presently exists.

MEETINGS

The board meets at Town Hall in an upstairs meeting room at 7 PM the 3rd Thursday of each month except July and December. Requests for agenda topics may be emailed to the Secretary. Comments from Board Members, the Public and/or Visitors may be considered on the agenda as “Discussion Topics”, but this item of business is confined to announcements of an intention to bring a future action, or requests for the preparation of administrative work product for future consideration. In no instance may a matter for final action be taken up under this item of business.

FUNDING

The board does not have Town Council approved appropriations, but the Town has provided envelopes for surveys.

PUBLIC EDUCATION, TRAINING & MEMBERSHIPS

Board members Jackowski and Underkofler became members of the Indiana Arborist Association and took part in an Indianapolis 1/24/23 Annual Conference. A community educational session “Preparing your trees for Spring and Drought Recovery” taught by a Certified Arborist was sponsored 3/29/23 at Highland Library. Board members participated in the 4/22/23 Park Pride Day and a 6/22/23 Thursday Market to acquaint the community of our endeavors and identify homeowner planting sites. A list of Approved/Unapproved Species was updated with photos of recommended tree species. On 10/23/23, the Town Council approved a Memorandum of Understanding with Delta Institute for the Northwest Indiana Tree Planting Consortium. Underkofler participated a 11/6/23 Tree Pruning Workshop. The program consisted of an educational lecture, then firsthand pruning of trees at Deep River Lake County Park in Hobert. Tree care tips and information about Highland’s most common trees were posted monthly on the “Highland Tree Board” Facebook Site.

ARBOR DAY EVENT

An annual Arbor Day Observance was hosted 4/28/23 by Highland Christian School at which the Council President Tom Black presented an Arbor Day Proclamation prepared by Clerk-Treasurer Mark Herak. State Senator Dan Dernulc, State Representative Mike Andrade and Lake County Extension Educator Rebecca Koetz addressed the students of the Kindergarten and First Grade classes. A donated tree was planted on the campus. NIPSCO “Right Tree, Right Place, Right Way” Pamphlets and Pecan Tree Seedlings donated by the Indiana State Nursery were distributed to the students and their families.

TREE CITY USA

To become a Tree City USA, a community must meet four core standards:

- 1) Delegate responsibility for public trees to a tree board and/or department;
- 2) Establish a tree care ordinance;
- 3) Document a community forestry program with an annual budget of at least \$2 per capita;
- 4) Hold an Arbor Day observance and proclamation.

Highland was awarded Tree City USA recognition for the fourth consecutive year by the Arbor Day Foundation. A recertification application for the 2023 calendar year was sent and approved by the State Forester. Total Community Forestry Expenditures were \$185,289.70 (\$8.33 per capita); 177 trees were planted; 51 trees were removed; 106 volunteer hours were contributed. The number of trees pruned was a deficiency.

2024 GOALS

At its February 15, 2024 meeting, the Board will review, change and update its 2024 Action Plan. Please share your ideas with us to keep us moving forward.



*Will Ayersman (Davey
Resource Group) -
TreeKeeper Canopy*



Community Updates



*Upcoming Events &
Meetings*

ANNOUNCEMENTS

[i-Tree Open Academy - Spring 2024](#)

- **April 17th – [i-Tree Landscape](#): Data, maps, and equity portal.** With dozens of layers covering a wide range of geographies it is easy to get lost in Landscape. This session will keep you on track to finish with a map of tree benefits and priority areas within your community.
- **April 24th– [i-Tree Eco](#) the flagship tool.** i-Tree Eco is where the latest science goes first. It is a large, flexible tool that offers much more than we can cover in a single hour. We'll help you decide if Eco is right for you and let you know where to go to learn more.
- **May 1st – Putting i-Tree to Work.** Take a whirlwind tour through the many ways that i-Tree can be used to further your tree initiatives, from communication to site selection to accountability metrics. Get inspired and make a plan to put i-Tree to work for you.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Join the [Indiana Community Forestry Council \(IN-CFC\)](#)

- If you wish to become a member of the IN-CFC, simply complete this [form](#).

[Tree Campus K-12 \(Arbor Day Foundation\)](#)

- To achieve recognition, highlight how the school successfully fulfilled the requirements of the [four goals](#) for Tree Campus K–12 recognition

Applications due **June 30, 2024**

[IN DNR: Big Tree Registry](#)

- A list of the largest known specimen of each native tree species in Indiana that the DNR Division of Forestry periodically compiles and posts, has been updated. You may now also begin nominating new trees.

- Includes interactive map!

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Does your department have a Parks Foundation or Friends Group?

- IPRA is creating a list of Parks Foundations and Friends groups to facilitate networking, education and programming, as well as discuss opportunities.
- If your organization has a Park Foundation or Friends group, [please complete this brief form](#) and IPRA will reach out in early Summer.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Tree Ordinance Administration Workshop

- Hosted by: Morton Arboretum
- April 11, 2024: Morton Arboretum, Lisle, IL.

Tree Steward training workshop

- Hosted by: West Lafayette Parks and Recreation and the Indiana DNR Community & Urban Forestry team
- April 18 and 19, West Lafayette, IN 47906.

SCA & Aerie Real Foundation Tree Planting at Proska Park

- Sunday, April 28: 1 - 4pm CDT, Berwyn, IL

UPCOMING EVENTS

Overview of the Tree City USA Program

- Hosted by: Morton Arboretum
- May 2, 2024, Virtual Workshop

Indiana Tree City/Campus Forum

- Free event for recipients of the Arbor Day Foundations Tree City family of programs
- June 4, 2024, Martinsville, IN
- July 23, 2024, Elkhart, IN

Project Learning Tree: Exploring Indiana's Forest Heritage, Indianapolis

- Hosted by: IN DNR
- June 11, 2024: Indianapolis, IN.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Indiana Natural Resources Teacher Institute, Morgan-Monroe State Forest

- Hosted by: IN DNR; June 24, 2024: Martinsville, IN.

Project Learning Tree: Forest Sensory Experiences for Early Childhood, Indianapolis

- Hosted by: IN DNR; July 25, 2024: Indianapolis, IN.

Chicago Wilderness Alliance Congress 2024

- November 15, 2024: Purdue University Northwest, Hammond, IN.

Partners in Community Forestry Conference (Arbor Day Foundation)

- November 20-21, 2024: Chicago, IL.



Grants

GRANTS

Inflation Reduction Act (IRA)

- Indiana DNR Division of Forestry, Community & Urban Forestry has \$2 million in grant funds available through the USDA Forest Service Urban & Community Forestry Program.

Application deadline is July 12, 2024.

Grant Projects

- Tree Inventory or Urban Tree Canopy Assessment
- Management/Response Plan
- Education/Training
- Community Engagement & Tree Planting
- ³⁵Community Education/Awareness Events

GRANTS

Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) funding awards directly from USFS in NWI

- **La Porte** – \$1,000,000 (tree planting/maintenance)
- **Michigan City** - \$1,000,000 (creating management plan, tree plantings and maintenance)
- **Environmental Resilience Institute** (all over Indiana) - \$5,000,000
- **SCA** (national) - \$2,000,000

Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) funding as IDNR pass-through grant in NWI

- **Indiana Arborist Association** – \$250,000
 - Creating arborist apprenticeship program in partnership with CommuniTree, Purdue Northwest, Purdue Extension, TCIA, and industry partners.

GRANTS

National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) National Coastal Resilience Fund

- Funded projects will restore, increase, and strengthen natural infrastructure—the landscapes that help absorb the impacts of storms and floods—to ultimately protect coastal communities and enhance fish and wildlife habitat.
- This year, the fund will invest approximately \$140 million in projects.
- **Pre-proposals are due Wednesday April 10, 2024.** Applicants invited to submit a full proposal will have a Tuesday July 2, 2024, deadline.

GRANTS

Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Pollution Prevention (P2) Source Reduction (SRA) Grant

- EPA funds SRA grants to support research, investigation, experiments, surveys, study, demonstration, education and training using source reduction approaches (also known as P2 or pollution prevention). EPA is particularly interested in projects that promote practical source reduction practices, tools, and training on P2 approaches to measurably improve human and environmental health by reducing the use of hazardous substances, reducing toxic pollutants, reducing resource use (e.g., water and energy) and reducing expenditures and liability costs to businesses, non-profit organizations and/or communities.
- **Applications due April 15, 2024**

2024 America the Beautiful Challenge

- **Pre-Proposal Due Date: April 20, 2024**
- **Full Proposal Due Date (by invitation only): July 16, 2024**

GRANTS

US EPA - Environmental and Climate Justice Community Change Grants

- Deadline to apply is November 21, 2024
- \$2 billion in Inflation Reduction Act funding available to support community-driven projects that build capacity for communities to tackle environmental and climate justice challenges, strengthen their climate resilience, and advance clean energy.

AIB/CN Grant

- Deadline to apply is November 1, 2024
- Who's Eligible? Municipalities, townships, other local governments and locally active non-profit groups in communities with CN rail lines in the US.
- Enhance community tree canopy by properly planting diverse, quality trees for long-term sustainability and resistance to future pests.

NEXT STEPS

Upcoming Consortium meetings

- June 11th or June 14th

Demonstration site planting

Continue coordination with Municipal partners

- Memorandum of Understandings
- Trainings, Surveys and Canopy Data Update needs
- Publish Best MGMT Practice Toolkit, Approved and Prohibited Species List, and Maintenance Plans

Private Plantings



Thank you!

Mélina Blanc: mblanc@delta-institute.org

Lucas Chamberlain: lchamberlain@delta-institute.org

delta institute 