



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



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 Presentation

- A. Leopold Sawyers, Community Program Manager - NW Indiana, Student Conservation Association

IV. Upcoming Programs, Events & Grants

V. Community Updates

VI. Next Steps

This project is generously supported by a grant provided by the [United States Forest Service Landscape Scale Restoration](#) (LSR) program, the [Dr. Scholl Foundation](#), and a grant from [Legacy Foundation's](#) Transform Lake County Fund.





Introductions

COMMUNITIES & PARTNERS





Project Updates

DEMONSTRATION SITES

824 trees total, 32 species

Sources:

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

Planting: May – October 2024



DEMONSTRATION SITES

Rosenbaum Park and Pruzin Center Park Orchards (263 trees planted)

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



DEMONSTRATION SITES

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

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



DEMONSTRATION SITES

Oak Ridge Savanna Bike Trail (71 trees planted, with 30 remaining to be planted.)

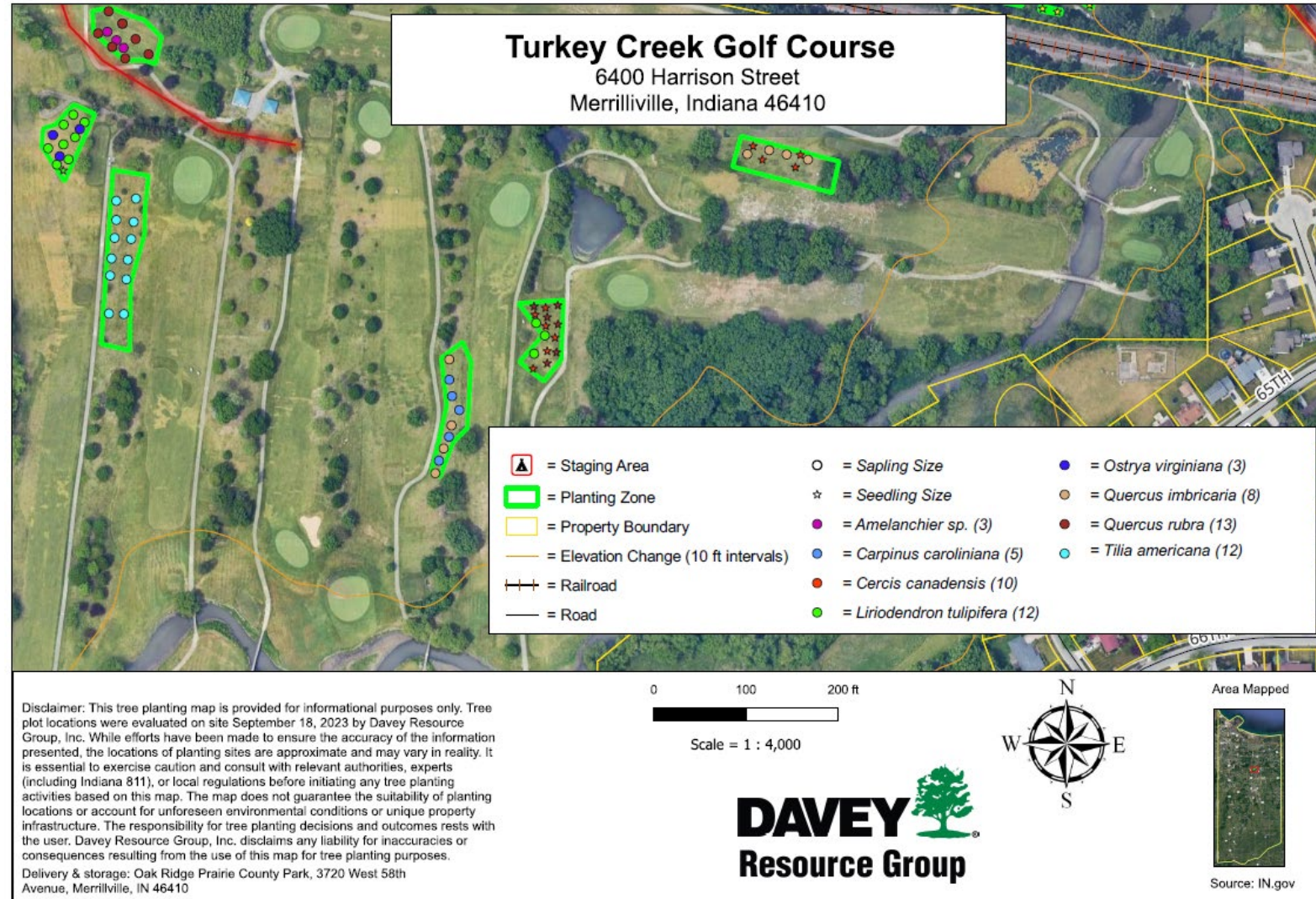
- Hophornbeam – 35
- White Oak – 3
- Swamp White Oak – 3
- Shingle Oak – 40
- Bur Oak – 5
- Am. Linden – 9
- Witch-hazel – 2
- Black Gum - 4



DEMONSTRATION SITES

Turkey Creek Golf Course (105 trees) is next.

- 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

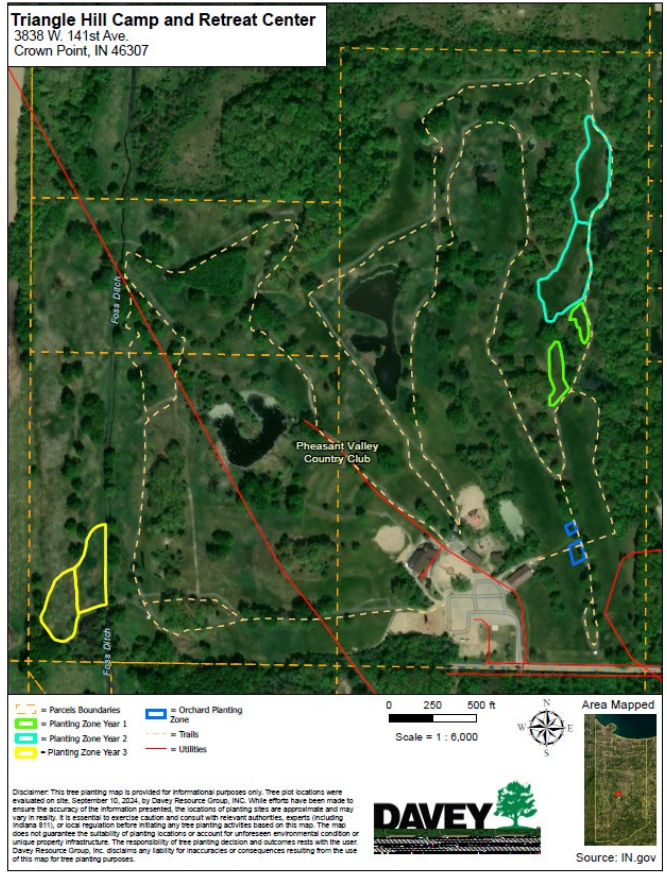
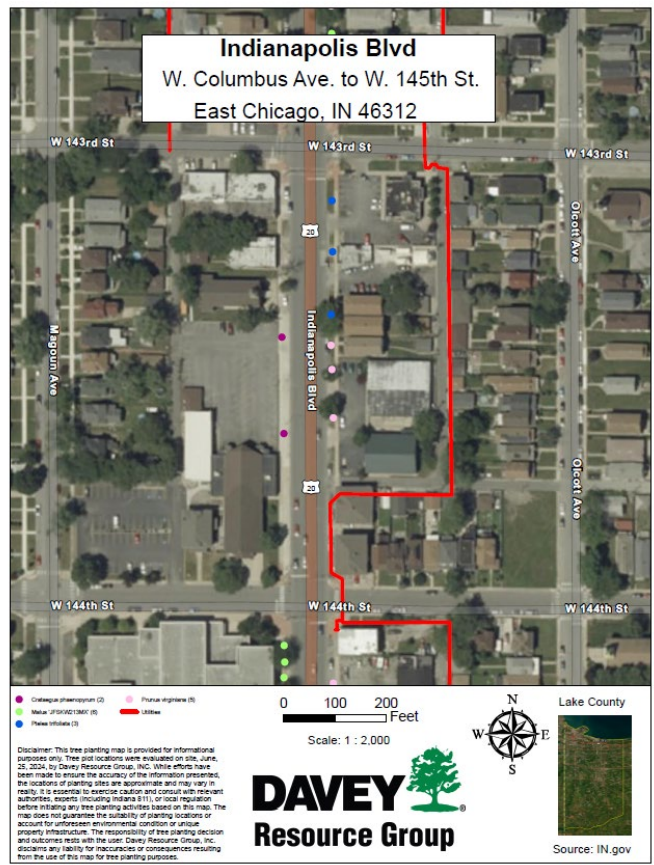


COMMUNITY PLANTINGS – prioritize planting plans

East Chicago: Planting plans for five project locations to enhance urban forestry.

Highland: 600 Seedlings Planting Map on the south side of the Little Calumet River to support a future grant request from the Highland Tree Board.

Crossroads YMCA / Planting possibilities: Creating a 3-year planting plan focused on reforestation efforts for a project engaging disabled young adults and YMCA summer campers in the process.



COMMUNITY PLANTINGS

1000 IN DNR seedlings planted in Merrillville schools in May 2024

- Miller Elementary
- Homer Iddings
- Merrillville High School
- Merrillville Intermediate School



White Pine, Norway Spruce, Red Pine, River Birch, Bald Cypress, Swamp White Oak, Silver Maple, Black Walnut

Indiana Toll Road

- East Chicago



COMMUNITY PLANTINGS



Thanks to Siltworm's donation, TPC will support the following plantings next spring:

400 seedlings at St. John: 50-100 of these trees will be planted with the help of 8th graders from Saint John the Evangelist.

500 seedlings at Crossroads YMCA: Planting will take place with support from Planting Possibilities, involving disabled young adults and YMCA summer campers.

100 Bur Oaks donated to Indiana Dunes National Park: The park will manage the planting of these trees.

100 Grey Dogwoods donated to Citizens for a Sustainable Hobart (CSH): These will be distributed as giveaway trees to local residents through the sustainable resident association.

UPCOMING VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Volunteer tree maintenance event Monday, October 14th

- Merrillville will host a public segment to highlight the public orchard pilot project at Pruzin and Rosenbaum Parks.
- SCA will then lead a **hands-on demonstration** focused on essential tree maintenance techniques like staking, watering, and mulching, discussing the benefits of these practices in ensuring long-term tree health and growth.



UPCOMING VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Volunteer SCA tree planting days:

[Turkey Creek Golf Course – 10/10](#)

- TPC demo site

[Join the Crew Joint Workday – 10/11](#)

- TPC demo site

[Whiting Lakefront Park - 10/12](#)

[Marktown – 10/26](#)

[Tacos & Trees – 11/1](#)



UPCOMING TPC TRAINING

Best MGMT Practice Toolkit

- Tuesday, November 12th, 11am – 12pm CT
- Online Webinar
- Planting Planning, Planting, Maintenance, Tree City USA, Tree Species Selection, Community Engagement
- [Register here!](#)

NORTHWEST INDIANA TREE PLANTING CONSORTIUM

Best Management Practice Toolkit Overview

Tuesday November 12th | 11 AM - 12 PM CST

[Register for the Zoom webinar @ bit.ly/4gUCUGC](https://bit.ly/4gUCUGC)

Learn more about this open-source, freely-available best management practice (BMP) toolkit designed specifically to support NW Indiana communities in every step of their urban forestry goals - from species selection to maintenance - and then some!



Hosted by
Delta Institute &
Davey Resource Group



Join us on 11/12: bit.ly/4gUCUGC



The USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer and lender.



*Leopold Sawyers, Student
Conservation Association*



STUDENT CONSERVATION ASSOCIATION

conservation begins here.





The Student Conservation Association (SCA) is the largest provider of hands-on environmental conservation programs for youth and adults.

Program participants protect and restore national parks, marine sanctuaries, cultural landmarks and community green spaces across the country.

Founded in 1957, the SCA is committed to building the next generation of conservation leaders dedicated to the lifelong protection of the environment and our communities.



2023 IMPACT



2,024

SCA members
in 2023

757 Interns

660 Urban Green & National Crew Members

549 Corps & Leader Crew Members

58 Conservation Work Skills, Training,
& Event Members



884,366

total hours of
conservation service



1,640

miles of trail built
or improved



157,535

acres of land or
wetland improved



451,718

people received
education & outreach



42,704

trees planted





TRANSFORMING LIVES THROUGH SERVICE TO THE LAND:

90%
are more likely
to accomplish
challenging tasks

91%
feel more
confident

95%
know more
about working in
the conservation
field

83%
are more
interested in a
conservation-
related career

89%
are better
able to
communicate

90%
are better able to
work with people
with different
views and
backgrounds

93%
are more
knowledgeable
about conservation
issues

90%
are more likely
to teach others
the importance
of conservation



Programs In Northwest Indiana

- **Young Adult Urban Forestry Crews**
 - Calumet – CUF
 - Delta Institute – TPC
 - NW Indiana – CUF
- **Young Adult Ecological Restoration Crews**
 - Indiana Dunes Nat'l Park – NPF
- **Intern(s) & Fellow(s)**
 - Internship – Davey Resource Group
 - Fellowship – Urban Forestry



Tree Planting Sites

Hammond

Rich's Park
Riverside Park
Dowling Park
Harding Elementary
North River Drive

East Chicago

Smith's Park
Marktown

Whiting

Shrage Ave. Whiting, IN
Whiting Lake Front Park,
Whiting, IN



Trees Planted, Maintained & Engagement

Number of trees in SCA care

1.1k trees currently in SCA's
maintenance (Hammond, East Chicago and
Whiting)

Trees planted in 2023

350 trees planted by Calumet Crew
75 volunteers and citizens engaged

Trees planted in 2024

25 trees planted on Arbor Day
40 East Chicago HS students engaged





Fall 2024 Plantings

- **Volunteer Tree Planting, Turkey Creek Golf Course – 10/10**
- **Join the Crew, Joint Workday, Turkey Creek GC – 10/11**
- **Volunteer Planting, Whiting Lakefront Park – 10/12**
- **Volunteer Tree Maintenance, Pruzin Park – 10/14**
- **Volunteer Tree Planting, Marktown, East Chicago – 10/26**
- **Tacos & Tree, Marktown, East Chicago – 11/1**



- ## How to Stay Connected

Isawyers@thesca.org

Partners

Purdue University Northwest, Hammond, IN
Hammond Port Authority
USFS
CommuniTree
Dunes Learning Center
School City of Hammond
Hammond Parks and Rec
East Chicago Parks and Rec
Delta Institute
Davey Resource Group
Indiana Dunes National Park
Whiting Parks and Rec
East Chicago Public Works
School City of Hammond, Harding Elementary School





Student Conservation Association

National Office

1301 North Courthouse Road

Suite 110

Arlington, VA 22201

703.524.2441

thesca.org



Announcements

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Indiana Parks and Recreation Association (IPRA)

- Have a Parks Foundation or Friends Group? IPRA is creating a list to facilitate networking and share resources. If you wish to be included, [please complete this brief form](#) and IPRA will reach out.

Morton Arboretum's Chicago Region Trees Initiative (CRTI)

- Check out the latest drought information from the [US Drought Monitor](#), which is updated weekly.
- CRTI Partners- To have your forestry stewardship, training, and educational events added to their calendar, [fill out this form](#).

Join the Indiana Community Forestry Council (IN-CFC)

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

NIPSCO & Arbor Day Foundation – Energy Saving Trees Program

- www.arborday.org/nipsco to reserve a **free tree** from NIPSCO & Arbor Day Foundation.
- Program is open to all NIPSCO customers and runs **October 7th through November until all 184 trees are reserved**. They will be delivered by direct mail to your home in 1-1.5-gallon pots (1 per address).
- The program is a website-based energy savings program that gives customers information on the best location to plant trees for energy savings costs and to reach the best environmental impacts.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Indiana Arborist Association - Arborist Apprenticeship program

The Indiana Arborist Association (IAA) has received funding from Indiana Department of Natural Resource's Community and Urban Forestry program to launch the first ever workforce development program dedicated to training certified arborists from underserved and disadvantaged communities in Northwest Indiana (NWI). This grant is funded through the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Forest Service Urban & Community Forestry program.

Please contact [Ashley Mulis](#) for more information.

Learn more by visiting <https://indiana-arborist.org/apprenticeship/>

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Great Lakes Thriving Communities Technical Assistance Center (TCTAC) Grant Database

- This new grant database is intended to make searching for federal funding opportunities much easier. It is user friendly and pulls information from 10 federal agencies participating in the Thriving Communities program every 24 hours to help applicants find opportunities most relevant to their needs.

Community Navigators program

- Coalitions and Collaboratives (COCO) is partnering with the US Forest Service and a team of national and regional nonprofits to deliver Community Navigator services. Community Navigators support community-based partners to access federal funding opportunities, create partnerships, and build capacity for climate resilience.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

EPA "Stormwater Smart" Outreach Tools

- The Stormwater Smart collection includes brochures, infographics, one-pagers, and social media posts to educate the public, and is now available in Spanish.

EPA Environmental Justice (EJ) Clearinghouse

- The EJ Clearinghouse is a public, whole-of-government clearinghouse composed of culturally and linguistically appropriate and accessible materials related to environmental justice to assist EJ partners.

American Conservation and Stewardship Atlas

- This digital Atlas brings together science, data and knowledge on biodiversity, climate change impacts and equity to help the restoration efforts of individuals, land managers, policymakers and communities.



Upcoming Events

UPCOMING EVENTS

TREE Fund Webinars

- TREE Fund webinars bring you the latest in tree research directly from the scientists themselves. The one-hour webinars are **free** and offer **1.0 CEU** (only for live broadcast) from the International Society of Arboriculture (ISA), Society of American Foresters (SAF), National Association of Landscape Professionals (NALP), and Landscape Architecture Continuing Education System (LA CES).
- **Space is limited and pre-registration is highly recommended.** [See the schedule and register.](#)
- Next webinar: *“Monitoring and modeling changes in street tree communities over time”*
- **Tuesday, October 8, 2024, Noon (CST)**

UPCOMING EVENTS

USFS Watershed Forestry Webinar Series

- Webinar 2: Riparian Forest Buffers: **October 10, 2024**, 12–1 p.m. EDT
- This October webinar will focus on riparian forest buffers, including the diversity of benefits they can provide and examples of how buffers have been used for watershed restoration.
- [Register for October's Webinar](#)

UPCOMING EVENTS

Arbor Day Foundation's IRA Community Engagement Training Recap: Recording, Slides & Resources

- [Part 1: IRA Training Part One: Identifying Community Partners and Initiating Dialogue on Collaborative Opportunities](#)
- [Part 2: Techniques to Bring People Together, Share Perspectives, and Strategize for Action](#)
 - Tuesday, October 15, 2024; 2:00-3:00pm Central Time
- [Part 3: Follow-up Protocols and Adapting Based on Feedback Received](#)
 - Wednesday, November 13, 2024; 2:00-3:00pm Central Time

UPCOMING EVENTS

IN DNR Tree Steward Workshops

General Workshop – 10/10 & 10/11 (Indianapolis, IN). Full two-day course for those who have not attended before

- [Agenda](#) & [Registration](#)

Refresh Workshop – 10/12 (Indianapolis, IN). Half-day course for those who have previously attended Tree Stewards and want to bolster their urban tree care knowledge

- [Agenda](#) & [Registration](#)

Contact Racheal Stenger at 317-234-6741 or rstenger@dnr.IN.gov for questions about the Tree Steward program.

UPCOMING EVENTS

IN DNR Community and Urban Forestry program (CUF) and Indiana Project Learning Tree

Annual 5th Grade Arbor Day Poster Contest

- The theme for the 2024-2025 school year is *Healthy Trees, Healthy Me!*
- Teaching resources and standard alignments are provided on the contest webpage, along with full submission instructions and contest rules: on.IN.gov/arbor-day-poster.

Submissions will be due **April 1, 2025**, and winners will be announced on April 21, 2025.

For more information, contact Racheal Stenger at 317-234-6741 or rstenger@dnr.IN.gov.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Northwest Indiana (NWI) Urban Waters Federal Partnership (UWFP) Meeting

- Final meeting: **October 17, 2024**. 9:30-11:30am CST (hybrid meeting)

2024 IPRA Conference & Expo

- **November 5-7, 2024**. French Lick, IN.

Chicago Wilderness Alliance Congress 2024

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

TPC and CommuniTree Panels

Partners in Community Forestry Conference (Arbor Day Foundation)

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

CommuniTree Panel

UPCOMING EVENTS

2024 Indiana Community & Urban Forestry Symposium

- **December 3 & 4, 2024** at Crown Hill National Cemetery and Arboretum in Indianapolis, IN (725 W 42nd St, Indianapolis, IN 46208).
- This symposium is open to anyone interested in urban forestry in Indiana but especially for representatives of tree boards, local municipalities, and volunteers.
- [Registration is full, but a webinar option will be available. More information here.](#)



Grants

GRANTS

Indiana Department of Natural Resources (DNR) Community and Urban Forestry Grants Awarded to Northwest Indiana Partners

- More than \$2 million in grants was awarded to 16 applicants throughout Indiana via the Inflation Reduction Act. Two awards were granted to NWI partners:
- The Nature Conservancy in partnership with the City of Gary received \$125,180 and Delta Institute in partnership with the City of Hammond received \$198,587. Both grant awards will help to revitalize the urban forests of each city through tree plantings, management planning and outreach programming.

GRANTS

Green Latinos Trees in Your Community Grant

- [Green Latinos](#) recently announced \$8.5 million for a [Trees in Your Community](#) grant funding program made possible through the US Forest Service Inflation Reduction Act Urban and Community Forestry Program.
- Funding is available to community-based organizations to work in low-income, disadvantaged communities, including those in Northwest Indiana. Eligible projects will implement urban forestry efforts focused on tree planting and maintenance, community engagement, and/or workforce development in the field of urban forestry. Learn more [here](#).
- **Applications due October 11, 2024**

GRANTS

River Network Funding and Technical Assistance for Urban and Community Forestry Projects

- River Network has released a Request for applications for urban and community forestry projects led by community-based non-profits and federally recognized Tribes, tribal organizations, organizations working in tribal communities.
- **Grants will range from \$75,000 to \$200,000** over a 1-3 year period. Eligible projects will build equitable climate resilience and access to nature by increasing and improving the condition of a community's tree canopy to address the challenges of flooding and extreme heat, community health concerns, and access to green jobs. Learn more [here](#).
- **Applications due October 23, 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.



Community Updates

NEXT STEPS

Upcoming Consortium meetings

- December 12th, 2024

Complete demonstration site plantings

- Upcoming volunteer opportunities!

Continue coordination with Municipal partners

Community and Private Plantings

Extension of TPC after June 2025 ?



Thank you!

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Lucas Chamberlain: lchamberlain@delta-institute.org

delta institute 