

After the Storm – Helping Communities Recover After Natural Disasters

Post disaster assistance for under resourced communities to enhance public safety and forest health through tree risk assessment and planning of tree mitigation, preservation and restoration

Program Overview

- About Trees Forever & IDNR UCF program
- Trends in Climate Change
- Why prepare for the next disaster?
- Who is the Urban Forest Strike Team?
- History of Illinois Urban Forest Strike Team
- How you can get involved with the Strike Team



Trees Forever's Mission

To plant and care for trees and the environment by empowering people, building community and promoting stewardship.

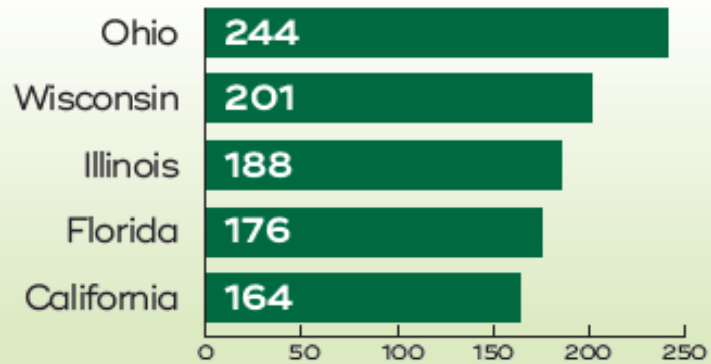


Trees Forever's *Recover, Replant, Restore!* Program

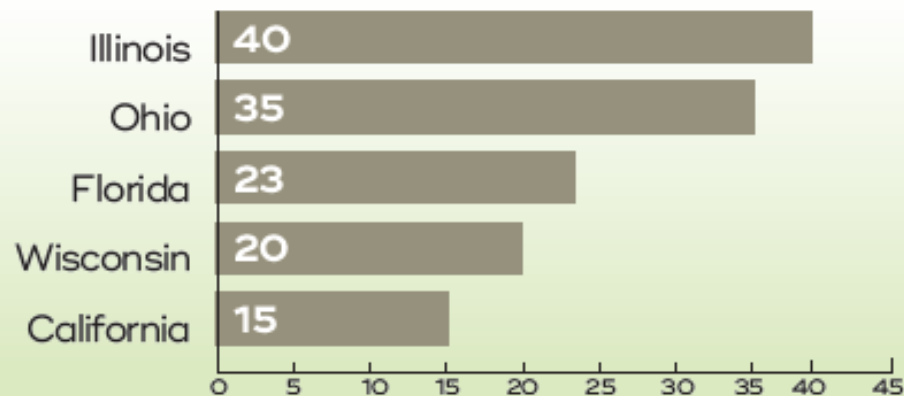


- Provide tree planting grants and technical assistance
- Assist smaller communities with volunteer-led street tree inventories
- Implement and update local forestry programs and tree ordinances
- Help create volunteer tree boards and committees
- Help communities achieve Tree City USA status
- Provide outreach and education to citizens and community staff
- Manage, support, and promote the Illinois Urban Forest Strike Team

STATES WITH THE MOST TREE CITY USA COMMUNITIES



STATES WITH THE MOST TREE CITY USA GROWTH AWARDS



Illinois Tree City USA Programs Rank Among Top in Nation

- 188 Illinois Communities reached for Tree City USA Recognition in 2020
- Illinois Ranks #1 in TCU Growth,
- Why? – Local leadership in Urban Forestry Program Innovations and Continual Advancement at Community Level

Illinois DNR Urban and Community Forestry Assistance

CARS –

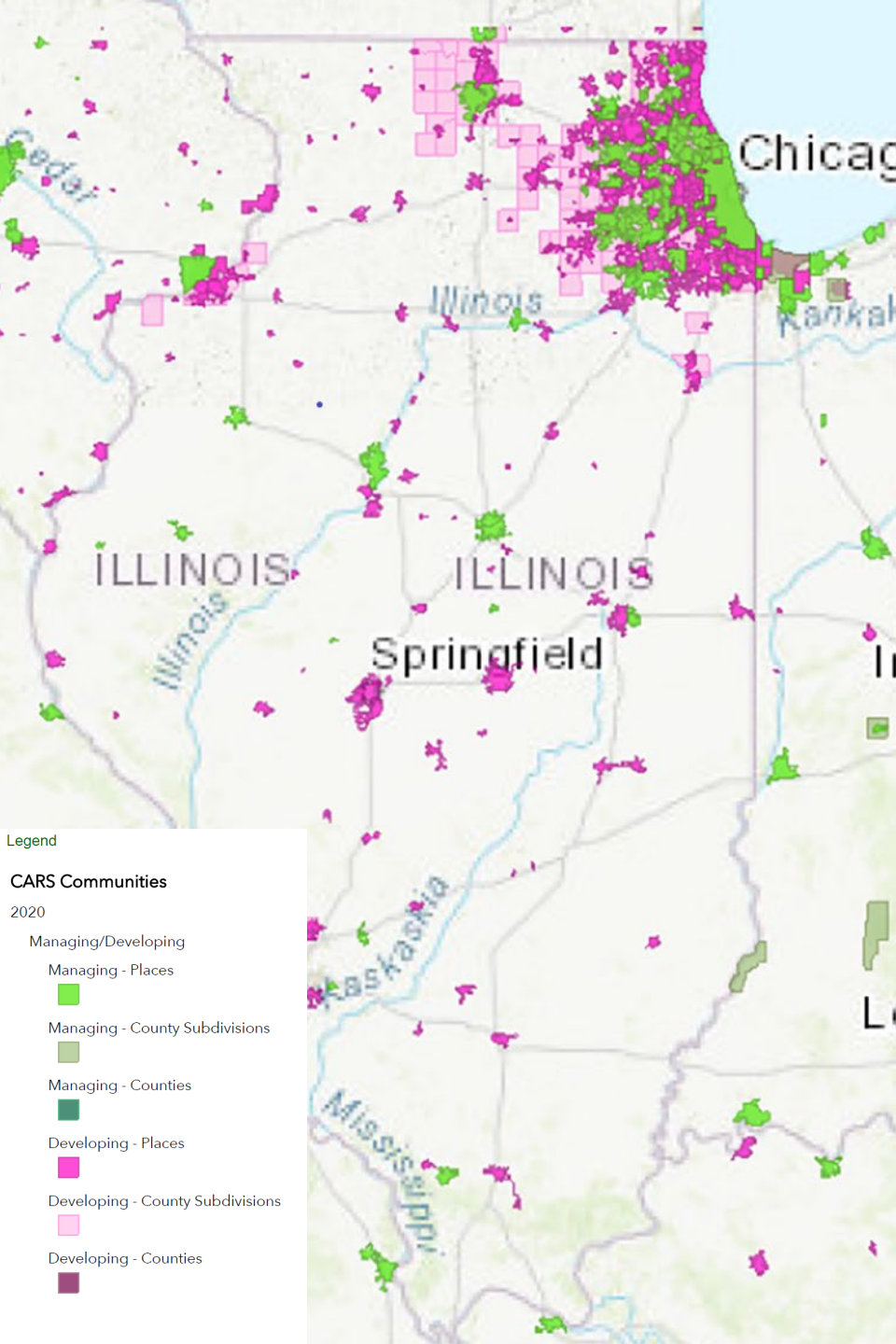
Community Accomplishment Reporting System

- 500 Communities Assisted through UCF program
- Another 276 communities assisted by directed federal programming
 - Cook, Dupage, Kendall, Lake, McHenry, Will County
 - Cantrall population 129

Work with Government Entities, Cities/Villages, Park Districts, Forest Preserves, Townships, Counties, - - Planning Commissions, Soil and Water Conservation Districts, Universities

Expound assistance effort through program partners, Trees Forever, The Morton Arboretum, Illinois Arborist Assoc., Openlands, Chicago Wilderness, and Heartlands Conservancy

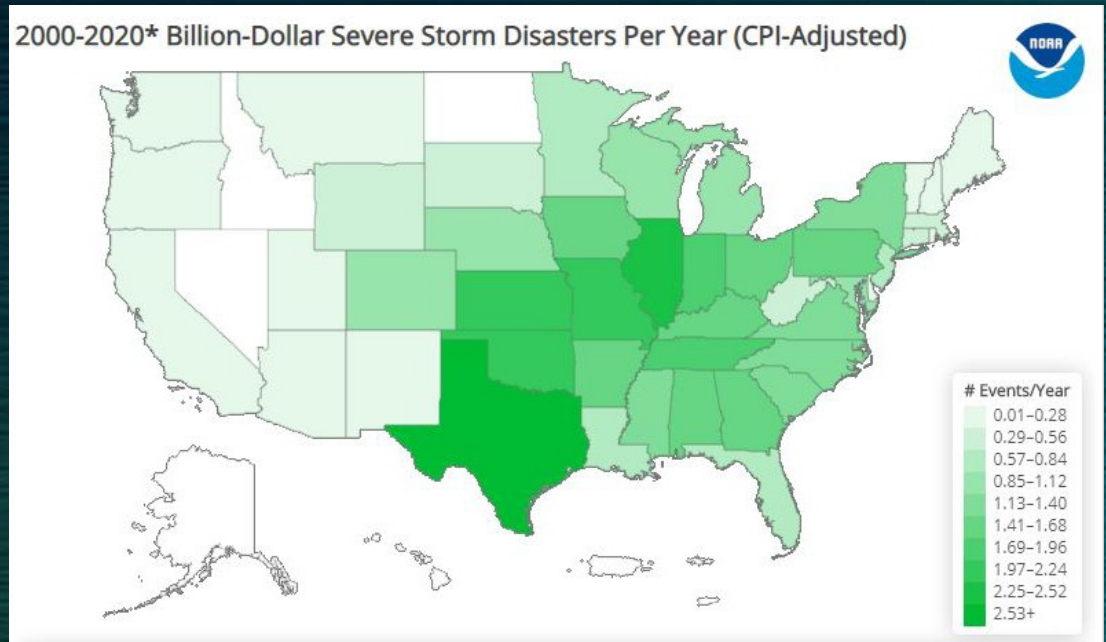
- 424 IPWMAN members
 - 5 million Cook County - 50 Newmansville Township



What are the trends with climate change?

- The busiest tropical storm season on record in 2020.
- Rainfall rates will likely increase with studies modeling 10-15% increase in rainfall rates within about 100 km of the storm under a 2° C warming scenario.
- Storm intensity globally will likely increase by 1-10% under a 2° C warming scenario. This implies an increase in the destructive potential per storm assuming no reduction in storm size.

Link: <https://www.gfdl.noaa.gov/global-warming-and-hurricanes/>



Map link:

<https://www.ncdc.noaa.gov/billions/mapping/freq-per-year/2000-2020>

Why prepare?

- Reduce tree canopy cover loss;
- Improve local, state, and federal information sharing;
- Coordinate response plans;
- Identify capacity and areas of need;
- Identify critical infrastructure;
- And get reimbursed for debris removal and replacement for lost or damaged trees during federal major disaster declarations.



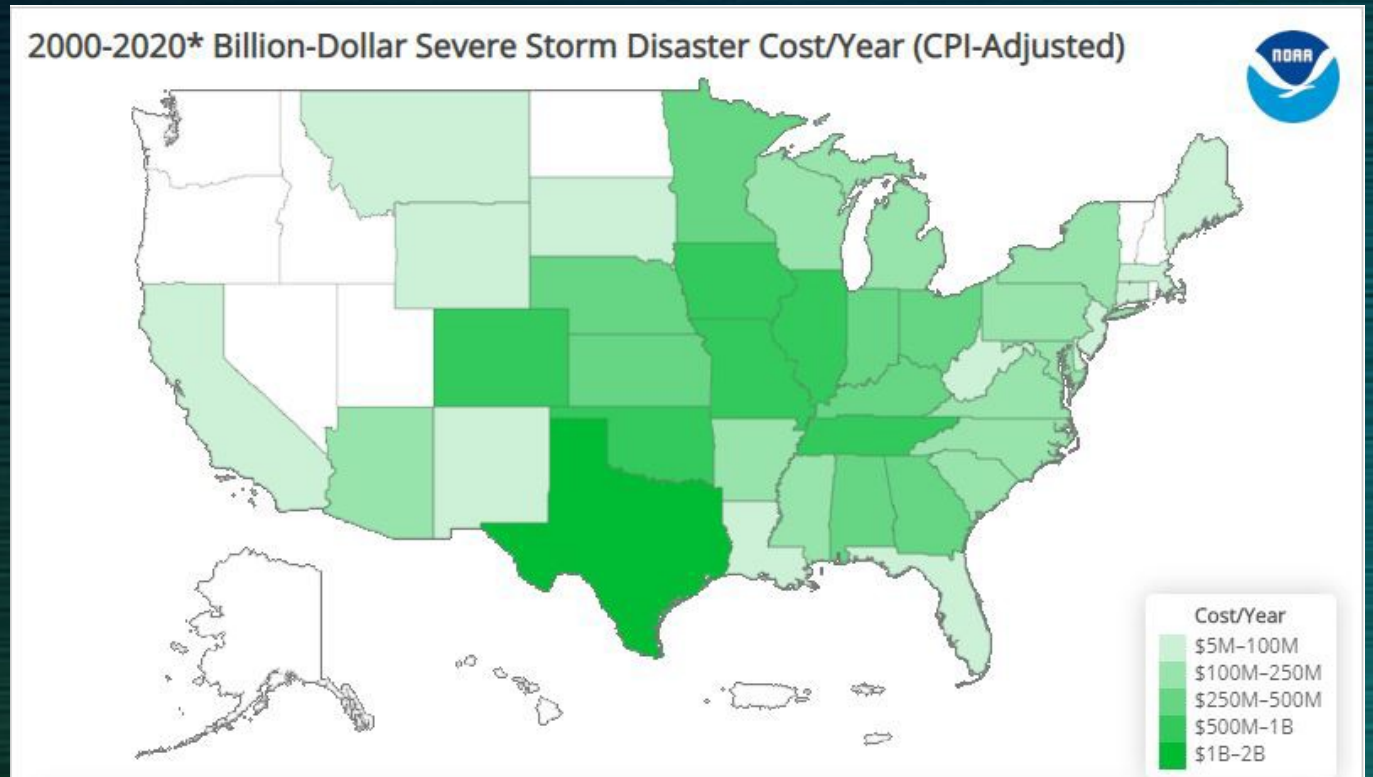
Why prepare?

Costs are high for disasters.

Any mitigation to future disaster events will save money in the long-term.

Takeaway: the costs associated with implementing preparedness programs to the urban forest is minimal in comparison to damages and lost productivity.

2000-2020* Billion-Dollar Severe Storm Disaster Cost/Year (CPI-Adjusted)

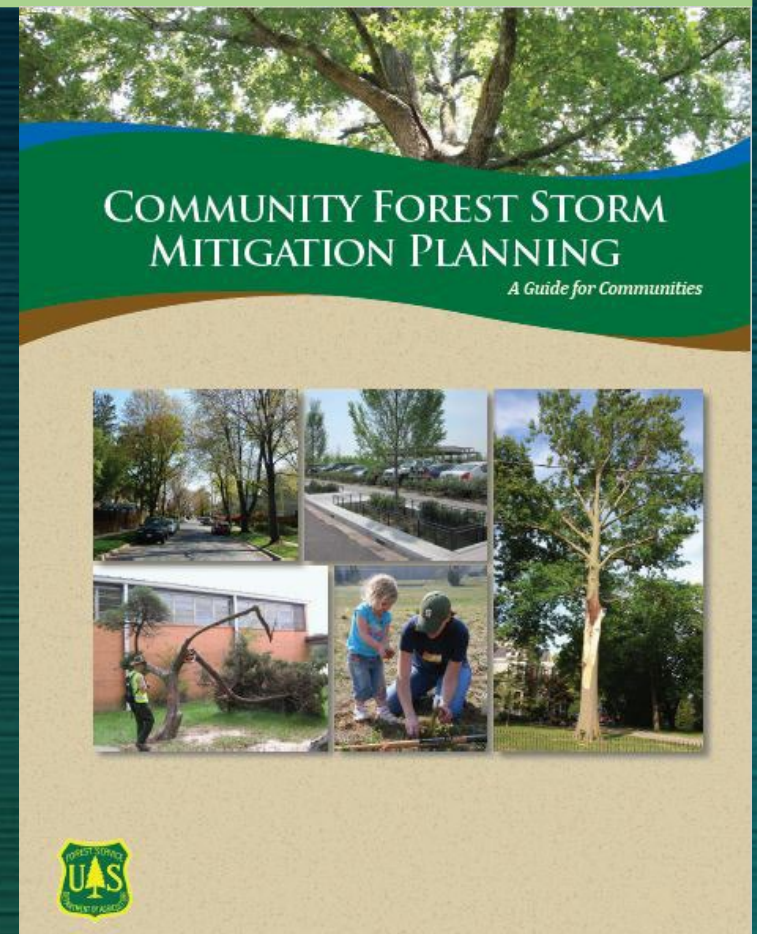


Link: <https://www.ncdc.noaa.gov/billions/mapping/freq/1981-2001>

Forest Storm Mitigation Manual

http://www.gicinc.org/storm_mit.htm

- Community Setting
- Storm Preparation
 - Tree Canopy Assessment, Public tree inventory, tree risk assessment, storm mitigation map, and more.
- Storm Response
 - Debris diversion and cleanup, hazard tree removal and pruning.
- Storm Recovery
 - Summary of tree loss, planting site inventories, replacement plan, species selection
- Funding Sources Available
 - FEMA – 404 Hazard Mitigation Funding, 406 Public Assistance Grants, Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities (BRIC), or Flood Mitigation Assistance.



FEMA reimburses tree replacement if -

- Trees are defined as Infrastructure (planning documents)
 - In order to be eligible for federal reimbursement during a major declared disaster, you must document the role trees play as infrastructure.
 - The role trees play must be related to stormwater, erosion control, minimize sediment runoff, stabilize slopes, or is necessary to restore the function of the facility. Trees that are planted for “cosmetics or aesthetics” are NOT eligible through FEMA’s Public Assistance grants!



Illinois Urban Forest Strike Team

- Collaboration between Illinois Department of Natural Resources, Trees Forever, and the US Forest Service.
- The "Team" is a group of specially trained arborists & foresters from around the state, who volunteer their time after a natural disaster, to conduct rapid tree assessments on public owned trees and private trees that impact people and public lands.
- Modeled after US Forest Service efforts during Hurricane Katrina.



History of Illinois Urban Forest Strike Team

- 2014 – Washington, EF-3 tornado
- 2017 – Ottawa & Naplate, EF-3 tornado
- 2019 – USFS dropped direct support for UFST, picked up by IDNR through core funding
- 2019 – Taylorville, EF-3 tornado
- 2020 – Ottawa, EF-1 tornado
- 2021 – Canton & Fairview, Straight line wind event in excess of 70mph





Urban Forest Strike Team

Risk Assessment and Action Planning

Pull together existing resources in the state
to:

- Assist communities that have little to no forestry resources
- Enhance public safety
- Increase Tree Repair / Preservation
- Reduce the loss of community trees
- Document recovery needs and cost
- Plan for long-term recovery of a healthy resilient community forest

Urban Forest Strike Team

- UFST will deploy when the community is ready, whether that's immediately after debris is cleaned up or a few months after a disaster
- Communities sign an agreement stating they will strive/commit to grow their forestry program: adopt a tree care ordinance, build forestry program staff, complete a tree inventory, create a simple forest management plan, obtain Tree City USA status, more...
- UFST will complete a Tree Risk Assessment and provide the community a report/plan prioritizing tree maintenance needs and removals, and in some cases a multi-year tree planting plan
- After deployment, IDNR, Trees Forever, and other program partners will continue to work with the community on forestry program and tree planting needs

Join Illinois' Team

Who Certified Arborists, Credentialed/Degreed Foresters,

How To start simply email Mike Brunk, michael.brunk@illinois.gov

- Willing to commit three days of deployment time over 5-year period

Why Sharing professional knowledge to assist, engage and initiate urban forest capacity across Illinois (and nation) to build a better future for all

- Obtain ongoing Urban Forest Strike Team Task Specialist Training, no course fees
- Become TRAQ certified - State pays \$750 ISA TRAQ (Tree Risk Assessment Qualification) registration fees for all interested UFST volunteers, and will also cover recertification fee for active volunteers
- Option to participate in mock tree risk assessment events
- All deployment costs are covered, travel, food, overnight stay (if necessary)



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