

Helping small municipalities to manage their community trees and urban forests

CORNELL UNIVERSITY
& COOPERATIVE EXTENSION
NY STATE REGIONAL TEAM

*S*tudent
*W*eekend
*A*rborist
*T*eam

**Learn more about the SWAT
approach to tree inventory**



What do we offer?

We work with you to establish a management planning process difficult for smaller communities with limited urban forestry budgets. This includes:

- A complete inventory of all community trees in the public right-of-way within your municipal boundaries
- The species distribution, condition, and maintenance needs of these trees
- The location of existing planting spaces available for future plantings
- A list of tree species suitable for future plantings specific to you community
- A quantitative analysis of the ecosystem benefits provided by community trees
- An electronic spreadsheet of inventory data so you can keep it up to date
- A resource for future questions



What are SWAT teams?

"SWAT" Teams are trained groups of students from Cornell University and Master Gardeners from Cooperative Extension who inventory community trees for a fee plus expenses.

- Time: 1 or 2 weekend days
- Cost: less than \$3500
- Benefits: useful for communities with less than 3000 street and park trees



Cost breakdown

- Student labor: \$100 per student per day
- Travel expenses:
 - lunch for team
 - transportation (approx. \$100/day)
- One day inventory approx. \$1200-1750
- Two day inventory approx. \$2400-3500

What do you need to participate in this program?

- Someone to be a designated contact person during the process
- A municipal staff person assigned to keep and update the electronic database which will be provided
- Signoff from a public official supporting the project
- Spreadsheet software (Excel or Access)
- Right-of-way information for all streets to be included in the inventory



Outcomes

- An electronic spreadsheet of all the data
- A report summarizing and analyzing the data
- Enhanced benefits to the health of your community forest
- Decreased risk and cost associated with tree failures
- Leverage future grant dollars



Related links

www.hort.cornell.edu/commfor

Helpful information for applying

Public official/person to act as liaison between municipality and Community Forestry Outreach Team

Municipal employee/staff person designated to maintain database

Estimated number of trees:

- 1- Count the number of blocks or miles of streets within municipal boundaries
- 2- Calculate 10% of total
- 3- Drive (randomly) along calculated number of blocks or miles counting trees
- 4- Multiply count by 10

Current community forestry efforts:

- Community tree board
- Street tree inventory
- 'Tree City' designation
- Street tree ordinance
- Community tree management plan

Note: We do not do hazard ratings for trees; we flag trees for further inspection by a certified arborist.

Registration form

Community Forestry Outreach

Community Forestry Master Planning for Small Communities: Student Weekend Arborist Team

APPLICATION

Name of community: _____

Public official : _____

Phone #: _____

E-mail: _____

Address: _____

Signature: _____

Date: _____

Municipal employee: _____

Phone #: _____

E-mail: _____

Address: _____

Estimated number of trees:

Current community forestry effort:

Send to: Nina Bassuk
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Urban Horticulture Institute
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