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

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 your 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

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

Learn more about the SWAT approach to tree 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.

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

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
134A Plant Science
Urban Horticulture Institute
Department of Horticulture
Cornell University
Ithaca, NY 14853