

Building Strong Community Forests

Our partners can help your community plan for a healthy urban forest by assisting with an inventory of city trees, planting diverse storm and disease resistant trees and training city staff and citizens on proper tree care.



After the Storm

Helping Community Forests Recover after Natural Disasters

“We need this type of help! Any community that’s been impacted by a tornado has the same issues with the urban tree canopy and potential dangers.”

Mike Sutfin, Ottawa, Illinois
Building and Zoning Official



Contact

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Trees Forever: (800) 369-1269



www.dnr.illinois.gov/conservation/Forestry/UrbanForestry



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www.fs.usda.gov/nasfp

Illinois Urban Forest Strike Team

What is the Strike Team?

The Illinois Urban Forest Strike Team is a group of **specialty-trained arborists and foresters** volunteering their time to help communities impacted by disasters.

These professionals will spend time in the community performing “**rapid tree assessments**” on public trees or certain privately-owned trees that pose a threat to people or property on public land.

The Strike Team is a collaboration of the Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR), the U.S. Forest Service and Trees Forever and was modeled after response efforts of the U.S. Forest Service after Hurricane Katrina.

Specialty trained arborists map hazardous trees to help cities to recover after natural disasters.



After the Storm

Be it tornadoes, straight-line winds, ice storms or floods, the Illinois Strike Team can assist communities to:

- provide increased public safety
- reduce loss of urban trees
- document recovery needs and costs
- plan for long-term restoration of a healthy urban forest

The Strike Team will **deploy to communities when the communities are ready** - whether that is right after the debris is cleaned up, or months after a flood when trees show signs of stress.

Helping Your Community Restore the Tree Canopy

After the Strike Team has finished collecting information about damaged trees on public property, IDNR will analyze the data and **create a report for the city** prioritizing trees for removal or special care.



“When times are toughest after a storm, the Illinois Strike Team is a first defense for citizen safety and a protection against additional property loss.”

Reinee Hildebrandt
IDNR Urban Forestry (Retired)