Trees and Forests Help Us All!

- Forests, even small areas along creeks and rivers, make a difference in water quality!

- Iowa ranks 10th in the nation for community tree loss (according to the US Forest Service)

- Loss of forests and urban trees creates environmental problems – soil erosion, flooding and loss of wildlife.

- Access to nature has proven to reduce the symptoms of ADHD and depression.

Breaking Down the 3/8th Cent Sales Tax Increase:

- Soil Conservation & Water Protection: 34%
- Natural Resources and Outdoor Recreation: 18%
- Watershed Protection: 15%
- Resource Enhancement and Protection (REAP): 10%
- Lake and Stream Restoration: 10%
- Local Conservation Partnership: 9%
- Water and Land Trails: 4%

Fund the Trust!

- Give your lawmaker a penny.
- A fraction of a penny sales tax is worth the investment in the Natural Resources and Recreation Trust Fund.

Funding the Trust under the Invest in Iowa Act would result in:

- an estimated $171 million in sustainable, reliable, constitutionally-protected funding every year!
- increase funds for forest health management, educational and outreach, and tree plantings.
We CANNOT Afford to Wait!

Had the Trust Fund been implemented 10 years ago when 63% of Iowans voted to support a sales tax increase, more than $1 billion would have been directed towards conservation beyond what we have today.

Invasive pests like emerald ash borer will cost the state more than $2.5 billion in removal costs and lost benefits. While the Iowa DNR Natural Resource Commission and the Coalition for Iowa's Woodlands and Trees recommends $3 million to help communities and landowners cope with invasive species, Iowa's forest health line item is only at $500,000. Funding the Trust Fund would at least ensure a steady revenue source to alleviate the problems.

Loss of trees could mean loss of jobs. The industry as a whole generates more than $3 billion annually.

Diseases like bur oak blight, oak wilt and thousand cankers (which kills walnut trees) threaten to decimate Iowa's wood product industry.

Iowa exports billions of dollars of wood product every year – including our world-renowned black walnut – but lack of funds to monitor incoming invasive pests puts Iowa’s lumber industry at risk.

Iowans Value Trees and Forests!
We Need a Budget that Reflects Our Values.

Benefits of Trees:
• Shade and Energy Savings
• Improved Water Quality
• Storm Water Management
• Pollinator and Wildlife Habitat
• Increased Property Values
• Beauty in Our Communities

Trees Pay Us Back $$$

Thanks to US Forest Service iTree software, we can calculate the value of every tree in our Iowa communities. For example, one bur oak (37 inches in diameter) residing just east of the Capitol Building was estimated at paying us back $23,865 during its lifetime. We also know that all the trees in the community of Marshalltown pay that city more than $950,000 in benefits EVERY year. Multiply this number across all of Iowa and we’ll see that Iowa’s trees pay us billions of dollars every year.

Coalition for Iowa’s Woodlands and Trees
CONTRIBUTING MEMBERS
Trees Forever
Iowa Woodland Owners Association
Iowa Nut Growers Association
The Iowa Tree Farm Committee
Iowa Urban Tree Council
Amana Forestry

AFFILIATE MEMBERS
The Nature Conservancy, Iowa Field Office
Iowa Arborist Association
Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation
Midwestern Chapter of International Society of Arboriculture
National Wild Turkey Federation
Society of American Foresters
NE Iowa Forest Advisory Committee
Iowa Nursery & Landscape Association

Soil & Water Conservation Districts
Iowa Christmas Tree Growers
Society of Municipal Arborists
Iowa Coon Hunters Association
Iowa Assessors Association
Iowa Association of County Conservation Boards
Izaak Walton League, Des Moines
Trout Unlimited
Forestry Advisory Council, Iowa