

Regional Trees Initiative's 2014 Community Forestry Survey

Hello! The Morton Arboretum and Openlands have founded a collaborative effort, The Regional Trees Initiative, aimed at improving the regional forest by 2040. This effort is being made jointly by more than 80 area institutions, municipalities, governing bodies, and industries with a common goal of improving the health, diversity, and sustainability of the urban forest. As a first step, The Regional Trees Initiative is collecting information from the 284 municipalities in the seven counties surrounding Chicago to understand the current state of urban forestry in this region. Please complete this questionnaire as best you can— it will take less than 25 minutes- and **return it by July 7, 2014** via SurveyMonkey.com, email at mcustic@mortonarb.org, or mail at Regional Trees Initiative, C/O The Morton Arboretum, 4100 Illinois Route 53, Lisle, IL 60532. Please contact Melissa Custic with any questions (mcustic@mortonarb.org, 630-719-5646). We appreciate your cooperation in completing this questionnaire. **All respondents will receive a copy of the final report** and will be entered into a raffle to win one of five **\$50 Amazon.com gift cards**. Winners will be notified by July 9th by email.

Useful definitions: 1) Urban forest – The trees and interdependent organisms existing within a city, suburb, or village. 2) Hazard tree - Trees that have defects in roots, trunk, or branches make them likely to fail, perhaps causing personal injury or property damage

<<< **START QUESTIONNAIRE HERE** >>>

PART A: Administrative and Program Profile

1) What is your community's name? _____

2) Does your community have an active Tree Board or other Advisory Committee advocating for trees and the urban forest?

Yes No Unsure

3) Did your community celebrate Arbor Day in 2014?

Yes No Unsure

4) Does your community have a forestry management plan (i.e., annual work or master plan addressing removals, replanting, maintenance, etc.)?

Yes No Unsure

4a) *If yes*, is the plan based on your tree inventory?

Yes No Unsure

5) Does your community forestry program provide technical assistance to private property owners?

Yes No Unsure

If yes, please check all that apply below.

6a) provided over the phone?

6b) provided through site visits?

6) Does your community forestry program include public information and education regarding trees and other community forestry issues (e.g., media articles, newsletters, talks, tours)?

Yes No Unsure

6a) *If yes*, were education activities on-going?

Yes No Unsure

A cooperative effort of:

The Morton Arboretum
Openlands
Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning
Chicago Wilderness
Metropolitan Mayors Caucus
U.S. Forest Service

Forest Preserve District of Cook County
U.S.D.A. Fish and Wildlife Service
Illinois Landscape Contractors Association
The Nature Conservancy
And many other regional partners

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7) Does your community have a tree inventory?

- Yes No Unsure

If no, please answer the question below

7a) Do you have a general assessment of your community forest? (then go to question 8)

- Yes No Unsure

If yes, please answer the questions below

7b) Is the tree inventory current?

- Yes No Unsure

7c) Is the tree inventory computerized or in an excel format?

- Yes No Unsure

7d) Is the tree inventory a windshield survey?

- Yes No Unsure

7e) Is the tree inventory regularly updated?

- Yes No Unsure

7f) If you regularly update your tree inventory, how often is it updated?

- Monthly
 Annually
 Every other year
 Every three to five years
 Less often than every five years

7g) When was the last time it was updated?

7h) Are you willing to share your inventory with the RTI's regional forest mapping project? (please send list with completed survey)

- Yes No Unsure

8) How many times in the past 10 years has your community had major storm damage to trees?

- 0 1-3 4-6 More than 6

9) Is your community an active member of the Mutual Aid Network?

- Yes No Unsure

10) Does your community have a proactive forestry management plan to mitigate the risk of storm-related tree failure?

- Yes No Unsure

11) If community forestry activities were conducted in 2014, please enter the number of positions and Full Time Equivalent's (FTE's; 2080 hour base year) for all position categories that apply:

<i>Position Categories</i>	<i>Number of Positions</i>	<i>Number of FTE's</i>
<input type="checkbox"/> Permanent/Full-time		
<input type="checkbox"/> Permanent/Part-time		
<input type="checkbox"/> Seasonal/Full-time		
<input type="checkbox"/> Seasonal/Part-time		
<input type="checkbox"/> Volunteer or Community Service		
<input type="checkbox"/> Private Contractor		
<input type="checkbox"/> Nonprofit		
<input type="checkbox"/> Other _____		

12) Does your community have a community tree ordinance? (Y=Yes, N=No, and U=Unsure)

<i>If yes, Does your ordinance have a component that addresses:</i>	<i>Y</i>	<i>N</i>	<i>U</i>
12a) Insect/disease control	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
12b) Prohibiting topping of trees	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
12c) Tree care on public property	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
12d) Licensing of tree care companies in community	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
12e) Tree preservation or planting on private property	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
12f) Ordinance or policy for tree preservation, protection, or replacement of trees or green space with respect to planning, zoning and development	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
12g) Approved and/or prohibited tree species	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
12h) Street trees in new subdivisions	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
12i) The staff member responsible for public property trees	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
12j) Planting of trees by residents	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
12k) Any other tree ordinance	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

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13) If your community requires tree care companies to be licensed, what does the license cost?

- No fee < \$10 \$10 - \$25 \$26 - \$50 >\$51

13a) Does your community charge a permit fee for tree removals or inspection services? If so, how much?

- No fee < \$10 \$10 - \$25 \$26 - \$50 >\$51

14) Does your community program conduct tree risk/hazard tree assessments?

- Yes No Unsure

15) Does your community have a natural resource assessment that includes trees?

- Yes No Unsure

16) What was your community's total budget for all public services (e.g., fire, police, streets, trees, planning, administration, etc.) in 2014?

\$ _____

If estimate, please write est next to answer

17) How much of the total community budget was spent exclusively on community forestry activities in 2014 (i.e., wages, equipment, supplies, plant materials, and contract payments)?

\$ _____

If estimate, please write est next to answer

18) Please estimate the percentage of the community tree budget allocated for the following activities? (total of all budget areas = 100%)

<i>Budget Area</i>	<i>Percent</i>
Staff	
Planting	
Pruning	
Removal	
Dutch Elm Disease control	
Emerald Ash Borer control	
Other pest control	
Equipment	
Materials	
Other	
<i>Total percentage</i>	100

19) Please estimate the percent of total funding used for community forestry activities (Total = 100%).

- General fund/taxes _____ %
 Special assessments _____ %
 Service fees _____ %
 Direct billing (permits) _____ %
 Grants _____ %
 Other _____ %
Total percentage 100 %

20) What is/are the major concern(s) regarding trees in your community? (please rank according to importance, 1 = most important to 5 = least important)

<i>Major Concern</i>	<i>Rank</i>
Insect and disease control	
Removals and hazardous trees	
Maintenance and pruning	
Planting and replacement	
Other	

PART B: Emerald Ash Borer

21) What is the percentage of ash trees left in your community?

- 100% 75% 50% 25% 0%

22) Was an Emerald Ash Borer management program in place in 2014?

- Yes No Unsure

23) What percentage of public ash trees will be removed in 2014?

Percentage removed _____ %

Is this an estimate?

- Yes No Unsure

24) What percentage of public ash trees will be treated in 2014?

Percentage treated _____ %

Is this an estimate?

- Yes No Unsure

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25) What is being done in your community to manage Emerald Ash Borer? (check all that apply)

- Unsure
- No specific measure(s)
- Emerald Ash Borer ordinance
- Public information/education campaign
- Pesticide application (treatments)
- Tree removal
- Other

26) What are your projected Emerald Ash Borer program costs in 2014? (If estimate, please write 'est' next to answer)

<i>Program area</i>	<i>Dollars</i>	<i>Annual Staff Hours</i>
Personnel		
Sanitation		
Equipment		
Outside Contracts		
In-kind		
Miscellaneous		
<i>Totals</i>		

We don't track EAB management costs

PART C: Other Tree Disorders

27) What tree problems cause concern in your community? (rate problems using 0=no problem, 1=least serious problem, 2=moderate problem, 3=most serious problem, 4=unsure)

- Construction damage _____
- Improper maintenance _____
- Vandalism/Animal damage _____
- Weather related injury _____
- Trees planted too deep _____
- Dutch elm disease _____
- Oak wilt _____
- Cankers _____
- Leaf spots/needlecasts _____
- Wood/root rotting fungi _____
- Bark/wood boring insects _____
- Defoliators & leafminers _____
- Sap sucking/gall forming insects _____
- Nuisance insects (e.g., boxelder bugs) _____
- Other _____

28) Does your community treat insect and disease issues on public property?

- Yes No Unsure

29) Does your community treat insect and disease issues on private property?

- Yes No Unsure

PART D: Tree Planting

30) Does your community plant trees on public property?

- Yes No Unsure

31) Does your community have a long range or comprehensive tree planting plan?

- Yes No Unsure

32) Does your community rely on a species list to select appropriate species for your sites?

- Yes No Unsure

33) Approximately what percentage of trees planted by your community are oaks?

34) Where do you plant oaks in your community (check all that apply)?

- Parks Parkways Medians Natural areas

35) Please rate the importance of the following criteria for selecting a tree species (1= very important, 3= not important?)

<u>Criteria</u>	1	2	3
Mature height	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Ornamental appeal	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Required maintenance	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Tolerance of site conditions	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Wildlife services	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Native status	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Diversity of community trees	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other (_____)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

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36) Does your community allow residents to plant trees on public property (easements)?

- Yes No Unsure

36a) If yes, do residents need to obtain a permit first?

- Yes No Unsure

37) Does your community plant trees on private property?

- Yes No Unsure

38) Does your community provide financial assistance for tree planting on private property?

- Yes No Unsure

39) Does your community have a cost share program for tree planting on public property?

- Yes No Unsure

40) Does your community provide technical assistance for tree planting on private property?

- Yes No Unsure

41) How many trees does your community plan to plant in 2014?

Number of trees planted _____

42) What type of planting stock is used? (please estimate the number planted and/or percent of total planted by category, total percent = 100%)

<i>Planting Stock Used</i>	<i># planted</i>	<i>% used</i>
Seedlings		
Balled and Burlaped		
Bare root		
Containerized or potted		
Spade moved		
Other		
<i>Totals</i>		100%

43) What percent of your planting stock was obtained from the following sources?

<i>Planting Stock Source</i>	<i># planted</i>	<i>% used</i>
Municipal nursery		
Private nursery		
Government run nursery		
Donated trees		
Big box store		
<i>Totals</i>		100%

43a) If private nurseries were used, please list primary sources.

PART E: Maintenance of Trees

44) What tree maintenance activities were conducted regularly in your community and by whom? (E = Employees, C = Contractors, V = Volunteers, N = None)? (check all that apply)

<u>Maintenance Activity</u>	E	C	V	N
Planting	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Pruning	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Watering	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Mulching	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Fertilizing	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Inspection, diseased trees	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Inspection, hazard trees	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other (_____)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

45) Does your program conduct regular maintenance of trees on private property (i.e., easements)?

- Yes No Unsure

46) On what cycle does your community prune its trees? (e.g., trees pruned once every 5 years)

PART F: Tree Removal

47) Is tree removal conducted on municipal property to control disease or eliminate safety hazards:

47a) by municipal employees?

- Yes No Unsure

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47b) by private tree service under contract?

- Yes No Unsure

48) Does your community conduct tree removal on private property, by municipal employees or private tree service under municipal contract, to control disease or eliminate safety hazards?

- Yes No Unsure

49) Does your community provide financial assistance to private property owners for diseased or hazard tree removal?

- Yes No Unsure

50) Does your community conduct inspection of diseased trees on private property?

- Yes No Unsure

51) Are forest products from removed community trees utilized by the community (e.g., saw logs, fuel wood, wood chips, compost material)?

- Yes No Unsure

52) Are forest products from trees removed from private property used by the community (e.g., saw logs [wood utilization], fuel wood, wood chips, compost material)?

- Yes No Unsure

53) What forest products are produced? (check all that apply)

- Lumber/Veneer
 Wood chips for mulch or composting
 Firewood
 Material for private wood workers
 Other (please specify _____)

54) Are forest products from municipal trees marketed?

- Yes No Unsure

55) Estimate the total number of trees that will be removed in 2014 (including diseased and non-diseased).

Total number of trees removed _____

Species of trees removed _____

56) What was the average diameter (at breast height) of all trees removed in 2014?

Average diameter of removed trees _____ (inches)

57) Over the past five years, the number of non-diseased trees removed has:

- Increased
 Decreased
 Remained relatively constant
 Unsure

58) Does your community have a recycling site for disposal of wood/brush?

- Yes No Unsure

58a) *If yes*, who has access to the site for disposal of wood/brush (check all that apply)?

- Residents City crews Private contractors

PART G: Community and Contact Information

59) What is the training level of the primary person responsible for the management of the tree program and/or activities? (check all that apply)

- ISA certified arborist or master arborist
 Four year degree (forestry, horticulture, arboriculture)
 Two year degree (forestry, horticulture, arboriculture)
 No specific training or workshops
 Other (please specify: _____)

60) Who is the primary person responsible for the management of the tree program and activities (check one):

- Public Works Director
 Parks Director
 Street Superintendent
 Community Forester/Arborist
 City Administrator/Manager
 Certified Tree Inspector
 City Planner
 Elected Public Official (title: _____)
 Other (please specify: _____)

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61) What community department has the primary responsibility for public trees? (*check one*)

- Public Works
- Streets
- Forestry
- Parks and Recreation
- Other (Please specify) _____

- Staff training/ education
- Community education
- More operating funds
- Educated officials
- Educated administrative staff
- Other (Please specify) _____

62) What resources do you need to improve your municipal forestry program? (*check all that apply*)

- Additional staff
- Trees
- Financial aid/grants

63) RTI is developing a sister-community program to match municipalities at different levels of tree planting and care knowledge to form mentorship relationships. Would you be willing to participate in this program?

- Yes, as mentor Yes, as mentee No Unsure

Program Contact Person: _____

Years in position (years): _____ **Years of Professional Experience:** _____

Title: _____ **Department:** _____

Address: _____

City: _____ **Zip:** _____

2014 Community Population: _____

Phone: () _____ **Email:** _____

Contact name, email, and phone number for tree board or tree commission representative:

Person completing survey: _____

Please provide any final comments you may have that you feel will help us understand your tree activities.

Thank you for completing this questionnaire. Your responses WILL help IMPROVE our knowledge of what makes community forestry programs and activities successful!

Please return the survey by July 7th, 2014.