



**CHICAGO  
REGION  
TREES  
INITIATIVE**

Our Trees.  
Our Communities.  
Our Future.

ChicagoRTI.org

Dear Resident:

Are you concerned about the condition or loss of trees in your community? In most neighborhoods, the devastation by the emerald ash borer has left public forestry departments struggling to keep up with pruning and replanting efforts. Here are some tips that may help.

Reach out to your forestry or public works department to find out what challenges they are facing and help them advocate for improved tree care. These individuals are often open to ideas for program improvements, but need the help of a resident advocate to push for support at a higher level. The CRTI Tree Risk Toolkit can help you be that advocate!

The CRTI Tree Risk Toolkit was developed by forestry professionals in the Chicago Region to help public land managers reduce risk from trees by establishing better and more efficient forestry practices.

The Tree Risk Toolkit includes the following to help you run a more efficient and safe forestry program in your community, all available at [ChicagoRTI.org/ReduceCosts](http://ChicagoRTI.org/ReduceCosts):

1. [Trees: Your Community's Best Investment video](#)  
This 4 minute video can be shared with your elected officials to bring to their attention the need and benefits of tree risk management.
2. [Managing Tree Risk to Reduce Costs](#)  
This resource is designed to accompany the video described above, with key points identified to help elected officials remember the key take-aways during subsequent conversations.
3. [Improve Your Forestry Management Flow Chart](#)  
This flow chart walks the community through potential forestry management goals, with suggestions for next steps and links to resources that can help achieve a stronger urban forestry risk reduction program.

We hope these pieces will be helpful for you as you improve your forestry program. Fill out [this survey](#) to let us know how you have used these pieces or how we can improve the toolkit!

Cheers,  
The Chicago Region Trees Initiative  
Tree Risk and Management Work Group

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