

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 their urban tree canopy and potential dangers. ”

Mike Sutfin, Ottawa, IL
Building and Zoning Official



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



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www.fs.usda.gov/naspf

Illinois Urban Forest Strike Team

What is the Strike Team?

The Illinois Urban Forest Strike Team (UFST) is a group of **specialty-trained arborists and foresters** who volunteer their time to help communities impacted by natural disasters.

These professionals will conduct “**rapid tree assessments**” on public trees or certain privately-owned trees in the community 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. It was modeled after response efforts of the U.S. Forest Service following Hurricane Katrina.

Specialty trained arborists will assess and map hazardous trees to help towns recover after natural disasters.



After the Storm

Be it tornadoes, straight-line winds, ice storms or floods, the UFST 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 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 disaster hits, the immediate attention is focused on public safety. The Urban Forest Strike Team can assist in this effort by effectively organizing tree risk into priority categories for an efficient plan of action.”

Mike Brunk
IDNR Urban Forestry Administrator