



Leaflet



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Trees Forever Mission:
To plant and care for trees and the environment by empowering people, building community and promoting stewardship.

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On the cover: Local fifth-grade students help to plant 13 trees on their school campus in Alden, Iowa.

Right: Employee volunteers from Collins Aerospace plant street trees in Cedar Rapids, Iowa.

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For up-to-date information on events, visit TreesForever.org/Events
For grant requirements and application deadlines, visit TreesForever.org/Fund

Connect with us on social media!



“You cannot get through a single day without having an impact on the world around you. What you do makes a difference, and you have to decide what kind of difference you want to make.”

Jane Goodall

Trees Forever family,

Earlier this fall I had the pleasure (is that really the word?) of joining a few Trees Forever team members and committed volunteers at a planting along a busy commercial street in Des Moines. The wind was up, the sky was gray, and the ground was... Is swearing allowed in **The Leaflet**? Probably not, so let me just say that I used a pickaxe as much as a shovel.

The day had already been a dadgummit. My cell phone died and the internet at our office was slower than a stoned sloth. The planting seemed like a productive use of my time, but I hadn't counted on parched ground heavy with gravel. It was as if the world was trying to teach me patience, a lesson I relearn every day here at Trees Forever.

There is a curious dichotomy about this organization. We are always moving and we move fast; the pages that follow will introduce new projects and partners, in addition to updating you on established programs. And yet trees, our very purpose, cannot

be hurried. Recently I learned that white oaks can live 600 years – 200 years of growth, 200 years of maturity, 200 years of decline – and only begin producing acorns in their 20s. A bur oak in Story County, Iowa, believed to be the oldest in the state, took root before the first Queen Elizabeth ascended the throne.

In this blend of old and new, fast and slow lies a bit of the resonant, soul-filling power of tree planting and, indirectly, Trees Forever. A century from now some Des Moines dude will zip his hover car down that same street where our crew worked that day. He won't know about me or my pickaxe, but he'll notice the trees we planted, gifts shared across generations.

For that reason, I'm glad my cell phone died.



*Kiley Miller
Trees Forever President & CEO*

Dear friends,

As we write this, the leaves are losing their last specks of green and the nights have turned frosty. The time is right to talk about transitions. After nearly two years as chairperson of the Trees Forever Board of Directors, Teri will step down on December 31 and Lynn will take the helm to begin her own two-year term.

So much activity is underway that it is challenging to know what to share in just a few paragraphs. We are excited by a new project to measure the ecosystem benefits from trees planted in rural communities and to help those communities sell the resulting carbon mitigation credits. The 2020 derecho is now more than two years behind us but efforts to restore the tree canopy through **Planting Hope** and **ReLeaf Cedar Rapids** have not slowed. Of course, we're pleased to see **Growing Futures** continue to expand. The program blends three things important to both of us – youth, workforce development and trees. And, as always, Trees Forever is busy across Iowa, Illinois and parts of Wisconsin providing grants and technical assistance.

If you are looking for a common theme for the many initiatives underway, you might consider “Trees, Land and Climate,” the same theme selected for the 2022 **Our Woodland Legacy** Symposium. As concern grows about changing temperatures and catastrophic weather events, people are more aware of the many benefits of trees. They stabilize our soil, clean our water, cool the landscape and capture carbon, all while providing beauty and peace.

We encourage you to attend the Symposium on December 15, either in person or virtually, to learn from local and national experts. Above all, we thank you for helping Trees Forever put down roots and grow.

*Teri Gibson,
Trees Forever Board Chairperson*

*Lynn Manternach
Trees Forever Board Chairperson-elect*



Trees Promote Success and Personal Well-Being

Introducing Grow Green for Students

Trees Forever is excited to partner with the GreenState Foundation to offer a new program that will bring tree planting and education to K-12 schools! The new **Grow Green for Students** program provides funding for tree planting projects on school campuses in select counties across Iowa.

These exciting projects provide the opportunity to get students involved in the act of planting and caring for trees while Trees Forever staff offer educational programming. Grants up to \$5,000 per project will be awarded this winter with the first plantings scheduled for spring 2023!

Visit TreesForever.org/GrowGreen to learn more!



Trees Forever staff and TreeKeeper volunteers assist students in planting 114 trees across the Marshalltown, Iowa School District.



According to recent research by the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, students recovered from mental fatigue faster and were able to pay attention longer and thus retain more information when their classrooms incorporated visible access to green areas with trees.

Elementary students plant on the campus of Tipton Elementary School in Tipton, Iowa.

Neighborhood Trees Build Successful Communities

Trees help build strong neighborhoods and the beauty and benefits they provide can bring economic success and a sense of identity to a community. Trees Forever programming works to empower people and municipalities with the resources and knowledge they need to plant and care for their neighborhood forests now and into the future.

Helping Maintain Strong Community Canopies in Illinois

The Trees Forever Illinois community forestry programs help towns that have been affected by natural disasters or are working to improve their canopy cover following man-made disasters like emerald ash borer. Grants from **Recover, Replant, Restore!** provide funding for planting projects while experts from the Illinois Urban Forest STRIKE Team conduct tree inventories and damage assessments in affected towns. Community leaders utilize the information from these volunteers to allocate resources, manage damaged trees, and plan future forestry projects in their towns.



Illinois Urban Forest Strike Team members take measurements and assess damage during a tree inventory in Ottawa, Illinois.

Community Visioning in Iowa

The Iowa's Living Roadways program, **Community Visioning**, assists participating towns in the creation and implementation of visionary improvements that enhance their community. Trees Forever partners with Iowa State University and the Iowa DOT in this program to help incorporate environmental solutions and strategic plantings in these plans. Shared green spaces created through the visioning process are an asset to these small Iowa towns and play a key role in driving economic and quality of life improvements.



Community members use the new Highway 63 Pedestrian Underpass in Hudson, Iowa.



Members of the Mt. Pleasant Iowa Visioning Committee host a ribbon cutting ceremony for their completed Saunders Park Plaza project.

Trees impact our climate, planet and global community



Trees Forever is a regional environmental organization, working in communities across Iowa, Illinois and Wisconsin. But does our mission have a global impact? Of course! No matter where they are planted, trees have the incredible ability to fight climate change through carbon capture, water retention and filtration, and even the reduction of utility demands. Every person that works to improve their own section of the world through tree planting is doing a service to the whole globe!

Carbon Capture through Tree Planting

Climate change caused by human activity is one of the largest threats that impacts our planet. The release of carbon-based greenhouse gasses, along with deforestation is causing the planet to become warmer and experience more volatile and destructive weather. Trees are one of the most important tools in fighting back against this carbon imbalance. However, simply planting a tree does not guarantee it will fulfill its full carbon-capturing potential. Trees Forever and our carbon crediting partner, City Forest Credits, are working to address this concern.

Carbon+ Credits from City Forest Credits provide a standardized unit that delivers quantified and reportable CO2 sequestration, energy savings, and air quality improvements. Communities enrolling carbon credits commit to a 26-year plan with assessments of tree health and size at years 4, 6, 14, and 26. Quantifiable metrics like these are crucial for both the seller and buyer of credits to better understand the impact they have and their effectiveness in combating climate change.

We encourage your community or organization to look into carbon crediting with Trees Forever! Our staff can help you navigate the process and turn your planting projects into certified carbon credits that can then be sold for revenue. To learn more visit TreesForever.org/CarbonCredits.

According to the U.S. Department of Energy, proper placement of just three trees can save an average household up to \$250 in energy costs per year!



Alliant Energy staff assist in a planting in Beloit, Wisconsin.

Alliant Energy's Community Tree Planting Program

This partnership of Alliant Energy, Trees Forever and local volunteer groups helps to plan, fund and implement tree planting projects. The program is designed to encourage energy efficiency, environmental awareness and community stewardship



in Iowa and Wisconsin. It is offered exclusively to communities with Alliant Energy service and grants up to \$5,000 for volunteer-led planting projects. TreesForever.org/AlliantCommunityTrees

A volunteer group in Marshalltown, Iowa, plants 40 trees throughout their town through a Community Tree Planting Program grant.



Carbon capture isn't the only way trees help fight climate change. Trees can also be used to reduce energy consumption and cool our cities! Properly placed trees shade our buildings during warm months and allow sunshine through during the winter. This can have a dramatic effect on the energy required for heating and cooling. Trees planted along concrete paths, streets, and parking lots help to shade the surface and fight against "heat islands" that can cause the ambient air temperature to rise. Lower demand on utilities results in less release of carbon through fossil fuel burning. Planting trees in this strategic way gives a one-two punch in the fight against the global carbon imbalance!

A Black Hills Energy employee volunteers alongside his family at a Power of Trees planting in Grimes, Iowa.



Black Hills Energy Power of Trees

This partnership of Black Hills Energy, Trees Forever and community partners helps fund tree plantings that save energy, beautify neighborhoods and enhance the environment. It is offered to Iowa communities served by Black Hills Energy for plantings on both public and private land. Grants of up to \$5,000 per community are provided for volunteer-based planting projects.



TreesForever.org/Power-of-Trees

Students plant near their school campus in Monticello, Iowa.



Promoting Stewardship and Empowering People: Fall Highlights



Growing Futures

The fall session of **Growing Futures** has featured outstanding groups of young people employed in the planting and care of urban trees in both Des Moines and Cedar Rapids. Both groups succeeded in hitting their lofty planting goals for the season!

Planting Hope

Thanks to the generosity of individual and corporate donors to the **Planting Hope** fund, led by Wright Service Corp., Trees Forever hosted two tree giveaways this fall in Nevada and Clinton, Iowa. Members of derecho-affected communities received 1,000 trees free of charge to replant on private property.



Stewards of the Beautiful Land

Classes and field days for the 2022 **Stewards of the Beautiful Land** session came to an end this fall with special tree planting events and prairie restoration projects.



Annual Celebration

The 2022 Annual Celebration, hosted at Celebration Farms in Iowa City, recognized the important work of Trees Forever volunteers and partners.



Agroforestry Farm Crawl

Trees Forever hosted an Agroforestry Farm Crawl to showcase the many uses of tree-grown products. The bus tour visited three farm sites across Eastern Iowa where participants learned about the growing operations and indulged on delicacies such as hazelnut beer and aroniaberry jam.



Campus Renovation

Construction has been full steam ahead at the Trees Forever headquarters in Marion, Iowa. The campus improvement project will showcase sustainable urban conservation practices with a focus on native plantings, water retention and filtration systems, and nutrient pollution mitigation.

Rebuilding our Canopy with Private Yard Trees

When a devastating derecho storm tore through the Midwest in August 2020, the city of Cedar Rapids, Iowa sat at the epicenter of destruction. In only 45 minutes, the storm damaged and upended an estimated 670,000 trees within city limits. With up to 70% of the community's tree canopy lost, a major effort to replant was needed. In response, Trees Forever and the City of Cedar Rapids partnered to create **ReLeaf Cedar Rapids**, a ten-year plan to replant and restore the city's lost canopy.

New thought processes will be needed to address the magnitude of this unprecedented reforestation project. Public plantings in parks and city right-of-ways play a key role within the **ReLeaf Cedar Rapids** plan. However, the vast majority of land usage in town is made up of the front and back yards of residential homes. Roughly 85% of the trees lost were on private property. Connecting these homeowners to sources of quality, native trees is vital to our success.

In the first year of the plan, Trees Forever has already begun work on creating new programming to distribute trees to Cedar Rapids property owners. There is a demand for trees – people want to replant, and educating the public is key to building back a stronger canopy.

Like most problems, there is not a one-sized-fits-all solution, so Trees Forever will execute replanting on private land through these three models:

Community Tree Distributions

Large-scale events held each planting season. Residents reserve reduced-cost trees online and pick them up on the day of the event.

Neighborhood Tree Distributions

Trees Forever identifies community leaders who act as a point of contact within a neighborhood. These "Neighborhood Tree Captains" work with Trees Forever to help promote, coordinate, and execute tree distributions directly to their neighbors' homes.



Cedar Rapids residents volunteer to plant alongside Trees Forever in neighborhoods affected by the derecho.



The fall 2022 ReLeaf Cedar Rapids community tree distribution successfully distributed another 500 reduced-cost trees to area residents.

Tree Voucher Program

Qualified residents attend an educational meeting and receive a voucher that can be exchanged for select tree species at a number of participating local nurseries.

The first educational tree voucher sessions are taking place in November 2022.



Your Friendly Neighborhood Tree Captain

The greatest resource in a project as large as **ReLeaf Cedar Rapids** is community investment. People, the local citizens, will be the main driver of success on the ground. When tackling the issue of replanting on private land, it quickly became clear that the city-wide problem had a neighborhood-level solution.

Trees Forever modeled the **Neighborhood Tree Captains** program after a successful initiative by our environmental colleagues at Root Nashville. Community members volunteer to become neighborhood tree captains in their own small slice of town. These captains are a connection between Trees Forever and the residents of their neighborhood, spreading the word about no-cost tree availability and coordinating the tree distribution process on the ground. When Trees Forever delivers trees to the neighborhood, tree captains are there to assist with education and planting coordination. Long after the trees are in the ground, captains act as a resource for their neighborhood and as a link to Trees Forever.

“What a treat it was to knock on doors to GIVE AWAY something valuable with zero strings attached... I felt like Santa Claus! The whole first week after delivery, I found myself smiling with JOY over seeing the newly planted trees!”

Robyn Clark-Bridges, Neighborhood Tree Captain



A limited test pilot of the **Neighborhood Tree Captains** program was completed this fall to great success. The first tree captain, Robyn, approached 150 of her neighbors to discuss replanting. On the day of the tree delivery, homeowners lined the streets with their newly-dug holes, ready and waiting to help rebuild the Cedar Rapids tree canopy starting in their own yards.

Cedar Rapids residents that would like to get involved can contact Molly Stuelke, ReLeaf Volunteer Coordinator, at mstuelke@treesforever.org.

Trees Forever ReLeaf staff delivered trees in Southwest Cedar Rapids. The first Trees Forever Neighborhood Tree Captain, Robyn Clark-Bridges, helped pilot the program this fall.

Winter is Pruning Prime Time!



✗ **TOPPING** is the drastic removal of large branches in mature trees, eliminating healthy structure and leaving wounds that are subject to disease and rot. Topping seriously injures the tree, causing it to send out weak shoots and ultimately results in early failure of the tree.



✓ Encourage a **CENTRAL LEADER** by pruning any co-dominant vertical stems. This tree has been pruned while young to ensure a single, straight stem growing up the middle.



WHERE TO CUT
Locate the branch collar and the branch bark ridge before making any cut. Your pruning cut must be made outside of these two areas so that your tree seals the wound properly.



Most trees will require pruning and care throughout their life. Whether it's for safety, tree health, or encouraging good form and structure, proper pruning is one of the most beneficial services you can provide your trees to ensure strength and beauty as they mature.

When to prune

The best time to prune is in winter when trees are dormant and you can see the tree's structure. The second-best time to prune is mid-summer, after leaf growth is completed. Dead or damaged branches may be removed anytime of the year. Oaks and elms should **ONLY** be pruned in the winter to reduce the chance of oak wilt or Dutch elm disease spread. Conifers need little pruning, but if required, they can be pruned anytime of the year.

Determining what to prune

Always have a purpose in mind before making a cut. The goal of pruning should be to encourage tree health through strong form and structure. Pruning beginners should start simply by removing dead or damaged branches. Crossing and rubbing branches, or limbs that grow back towards the tree's center are also fair game for pruning. Trees should never be "topped" (see image) and never remove more than 25% of the tree's branches in one growing season. Newly planted trees should also be given a full growing season before pruning any healthy branches.

How to prune

The most important technique in pruning is finding the correct cutting location - right outside the branch collar and branch bark ridge (pictured). Pruning a branch or limb too close to the trunk, or flush cutting, leaves a large wound that is difficult to close. Pruning too far out on a limb leaves a branch stub. This encourages the growth of poorly attached, weak shoots. Pruning when branches are young leaves a smaller, easier to close wound.

There's much more to learn!

Pruning takes time and experience to master. There is much more to it than we have covered here - such as the right tools, more advanced structural pruning, and species-specific concerns. Remember safety first, especially around power lines! Contact a professional certified arborist if the job is too big or if you're not confident in your pruning skills. We encourage you to learn more!

Visit TreesForever.org/Blog for more information and some helpful links.

Starting at the Source: The Illinois Buffer Partnership



The Cache River system at the southern tip of Illinois is an important wetlands environment that provides habitat for many dozens of endangered and threatened species. The lowland areas that feed into the system have a long history of ecological challenges related to erosion and runoff that threaten the protected area. Following the river upstream will eventually bring you to the small town of Anna, Illinois, where three drainages meet to form the very source of the river - a humble stream starting at just two feet wide.

Trees Forever partnered with the City of Anna through an **Illinois Buffer Partnership** grant to preserve, promote, and enrich the source of the Cache River. The seven acres of the project site include areas of pasture, a seasonal holding pond for flood control, and a highly erodible hillside that leads directly to the drainage zone at the river's source.

The project will establish a two-acre pollinator plot in the watershed above the holding pond. Erosion control measures will be taken to improve drainage from nearby problem areas and will be capped off with the establishment of native plantings to serve as a streamside buffer. Additional goals are to establish a pollinator habitat at the site to further control pollution runoff and enhance the city's green spaces.

While the Cache River runs another 92 miles to its mouth at the Ohio River, this project at its source indirectly affects the entire waterway. It also serves a great symbolic value, helping to increase public awareness and stewardship of an incredibly valuable natural resource.

University of Illinois extension master naturalists host a volunteer day to plant fifteen trees at the project site.

Members of Anna-Jonesboro Garden Club and students from Unit 37 Junior High help plant button bush and hibiscus in the city park as part of the restoration project.



Heron Pond is a wetland in the Cache River system.



How beautifully
leaves grow old.
How full of
light and color are
their last days.

John Burroughs

The season of harvest brings a satisfied, grateful fatigue. In the chilly air and slanted sunlight, we plant with an eye to generations to come.

Our reward: Glowing bursts of color as the year's fever pace begins to slow.

Time to clean the shovels and rest. Time to be thankful for hard work.

Thank you for planting with us and giving us the privilege to work toward a future filled with trees. Even if you're unable to wield a shovel, you're part of this vital work.

Thanks for helping plant a better and beautiful tomorrow.

Visit TreesForever.org/Support to make a gift or send your donation to:

Trees Forever
80 W 8th Avenue
Marion, IA 52302

March 31 to October 20, 2022

Honorariums

In honor of / By

Alayna Armentrout
Mercedes Santos
Peg & Gregg Gustafson
Colleen Armstrong
Marilyn Langhurst
Sallie Streib
James Kahn & Patsy MacDonald
Carylann Mucha
Jennifer Karma & Tony Smith
Laura Becker
Becky Bunting
Emily Carstensen
Lynda Gallagher
Vicki Hinz-Ensz
Kimberly Kaplan
Katie Rodgers
Chava Rosenbaum
Carolyn Simon
Melissa & Gavin Zenk
Sandy Lacina
Doris Gitzy
Milo Mongler
Katy Morgan
Jill Rauwerdink
Jan Monk
Marilyn Langhurst
Diane Olsen
Sallie Streib
Katherine Morrison
Mercedes Santos
Diane Olsen
Marilyn Langhurst
Jan Monk
Sallie Streib
Ned Parker
Karen Franker
Deb Roman
Shannon Ramsay
Sallie Streib
Marilyn Langhurst
Jan Monk
Diane Olsen
Lori Tomasek
Cedar Rapids Bank & Trust
Joyce Vogt
Doris Gitzy
Clarence Walton
Heather Lee

Memorials

In memory of / By

Martha Barry
Nancy Wauters
Cindy Bascom
Margaret Birmingham
Joanne Berry
Mercedes Santos
Janette Blinks
Shannon Ramsay
Amy Buzalsky
Leo Buzalsky
Marlene Cameron
Scott & Charlotte Gunnufson
Robert Castellino
Mercedes Santos
Lawrence Robert Clore
David & Martha Booth
Marcie Coleman
Nick Coleman
Larry & Shawn Cortelyou
Michael Chevy Castranova & Lisa Williams
Chuck Crandall
Marilyn & Ron Neuerburg
Tait Cummins
Dan Cummins
John Deklotz
Jim & Lisa Renfer
Robert Drahozal
Kerry Rivera
Sheryl Glassell
Pat Graves
David Gradwohl
Shannon Ramsay
Tina Andrea Hanna
Brad & Sarah Morgan
Dave Hannon
Margaret Birmingham
Shannon Ramsay
Deb Roman
Allan Harms
Sally Harms
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Diane Weimer
Muriel Lowenberg
Randy & Nancy Lowenberg
Richard Lowenberg
Randy & Nancy Lowenberg
Thomas McEvilly
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Glenda Davis
Michael Meshak
Anonymous
Jean Dirks
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Michael Andrew Jamosky
W. & Kathy Kilbourn
Brenda Meshak
Sharon Mettler
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Randy Strnad
Opal M. Miller
William Satkamp
Nathan Henry Montgomery
Leah Appell
Janet Ashman
Kimberly Baker
Michael Beaird
Jane Drews
James Dunnigan
James R. Hansen & Becky Soglin
Jessie Henry
Sara Holt
Victor Janey
Carolyn Johnson
Ellen Kapp
Phyllis Lance
Brad Linman
James McCue
Bob Montgomery
Mary Neuzil
Jamie Powers
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Margaret Saeugling
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Matt Taylor
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Dr. Ollie Weigel
Mary Richards
Arnold Lew Widen
JoBeth D'Agostino
Dean Wilson
Mary Richards



TREES FOREVER

80 W 8th Avenue • Marion, IA 52302

2022 *Our Woodland Legacy* Symposium

Trees, Land and Climate

Thursday, December 15, 2022
8:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

In-person event to be held at
Hotel at Kirkwood
7725 Kirkwood Blvd SW
Cedar Rapids, Iowa

Virtual only attendance option is also available

Trees, Land and Climate impact our personal lives, the success of our hometowns, and the future of our global community. Join us for the 2022 ***Our Woodland Legacy*** Symposium to hear from our world-class speakers and panelists about the key roles that trees will play as our world continues to change. Don't miss this opportunity to interact and network with environmentally-minded peers and organizations!

Featured Speakers



Keynote Speaker

Dr. Kathleen Wolf

University of Washington
Presenting: ***Climate, Urban Forests and Human Health***



Mark McPherson

Executive Director and
Founder, City Forest Credits
Presenting: ***Carbon Credits in 15 Minutes***

Additional speakers include Linn County Sustainability Director **Tamara Marcus** and Linn County Public Health Equity Program Manager **Anne Carter** discussing ***Climate, Environmental Equity and Public Health***, alongside many more regional climate action speakers.

Connect with us!



Register online at TreesForever.org/Event/Symposium
before Friday, December 9!