



Tree Removal Grant Requirements

The goal of tree removal grants is to jumpstart tree planting by assisting with tree removal of dead, dying and diseased trees in eligible communities recognized as Tree City USA.

Applications must include a detailed list of the trees to be removed including the following:

- location of tree to be removed
 - GPS coordinates
 - Street address and relative location
 - Land Use (i.e., residential, business zone, natural area, park, etc.)
- Species and picture of tree, as it stands, to be removed
- Single or multi-stem designation
- DBH (Diameter at Breast (standard) Height)
- Justification for removal
 - Condition rating including defects (roots, wounds, rot, deadwood, etc.)
 - Risk assessment or categorization
 - General comments

Applications should submit photos of the trees prior to removal. Photos should display the entire tree from the base of the trunk at ground level and include the whole crown. Applicants will also provide photos after the removal, from this exact viewpoint showing the tree removed.

A contractor and/or qualified staff must be used to complete the tree removal assessment. If utilizing a contractor, please submit TWO quotes from TWO contractors. Contractors and in-house support staff shall have the requisite professional experience to complete the work. Verification of this training and skills is required. **It is anticipated that a contractor will be used for these assessments but qualified in-house staff are allowed.** If your community wishes to complete the assessment using staff, a clear outline and explanation of capacity and expertise is required.

Re-planting Plan Requirements

Applications for tree removal must include a replanting plan that includes some basic information about the future planting. If awarded a tree removal grant, your community is eligible for an Illinois Community Canopy (ICC) tree planting grant to assist with funding. While a complete ICC tree planting grant application is not required for this tree removal application, we do need some basic information about your plans to replant. Re-planting plans must include:

- Location of tree planting. If individual locations are not identified sections or general locations should be included so that we can verify potential planting locations are in an eligible area. Significant and thoroughly explained and documented community engagement (seeking input to influence decisions).
- Species list of trees you would like to plant
- Timeline for completing tree re-planting project

Additional Requirements and General Information

- This grant opportunity is for tree removals only and does not include general pruning or maintenance activities. Additional services, beyond the removal of trees, is not a reimbursable cost.
- Grant is disbursed after the project has been completed. Communities are encouraged to apply for an ICC tree planting grant to fund tree planting in your community.
- Applications should include a timeline for tree removal project and replanting.
- The applicant shall provide proof that the trees identified in the application have been removed and submit proof to Trees Forever, through a photo from the exact viewpoint of the original photo, before reimbursement.