

## **Proposal: 2017 Illinois Forestry Summit - *TREE*vitalizing Illinois**

Illinois has many resources and participants in forestry and urban forestry. To build on the upcoming publication of "2017 Illinois Forest Action Plan", a summit or meeting would allow for all stakeholders across Illinois to join and discuss implementation strategies and barriers to state objectives, financial programs, and implementation strategies. Individual contributions of partners across the state can be maximized with the development of a cohesive state mission and goal. Increased collaboration will assist with the development of much needed public awareness campaigns to generate discussion and buy-in statewide.

**Audience:** Partner and interested organizations who impact and have influence on forestry initiatives in Illinois.

### **Format options:**

- One to two day conference to facilitate sharing of ideas and brainstorming future objectives for rural to urban forestry programs for Illinois. Roundtable discussions and facilitated sessions to develop statewide mission, goal, and implementation strategy. Facilitated sessions on how to maximize current financial resources and collaborative opportunities for grant applications.
- Survey statewide groups ahead of meeting: state action plan goals. Who is doing what? Mission alignment, who uses action plan and why?
- Multiple meetings at a smaller scale by region, followed by monthly webinars for updates
- Half day meet & greet to introduce statewide plans and goals
- Half or whole day program where each group does a short presentation introducing what they are doing, their goals and then how they connect to State Action Plan

**Topics:** Launch (new) State Forest Action Plan  
- Implementation plan and timeline  
Collaborations and partnerships  
Oak ecosystems and their decline in the state  
Rural to urban interface  
Education and engagement of private property owners  
Forest Health Monitoring: Invasive pests and diseases  
Youth engagement  
Entry level professional training and engagement  
State funding

**Location:** Central Illinois, TBD

**Timing:** Fall 2017/Winter 2018

**Budget:** (attached) planning costs, survey development and tracking, promotion and registration, site, catering, AV, handouts,

**Objectives:** Facilitate open communication between all forestry partners, increase state funding, identify additional funding opportunities, develop outreach plan to raise awareness, build collaboration, and forge new partnerships. Strengthen the positions of the Urban Forestry Committee and Illinois Forestry Development Council to advocate for the Illinois forest

**Suggested Invitees:**

Forestry Development Council	Illinois Arborist Association	Illinois Department of Agriculture
Illinois DNR	The Morton Arboretum	Chicago Wilderness
US Forest Service	Chicago Region Trees Initiative	University of Illinois Ext. Forestry
Illinois Forestry Association	Trees Forever	Openlands
Illinois Urban Forestry Committee	Illinois Walnut Growers	Midwest Invasive Plant Network
Southern Illinois University	University of Illinois	Illinois Wood Utilization Team
IL Chapter of the Society of American Foresters	IL Chapter of The Wildlife Society	NRCS, Illinois Soil & Water Conservation Districts
International Society of Arboriculture	Turkey Federation	The Nature Conservancy
	Fishing groups	Sierra Club
	Camping/outdoor enthusiasts	
	Audubon	
	Paddler organizations	