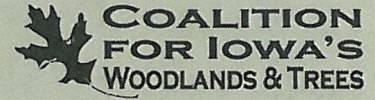


Report to Iowa Legislators

2010 Iowa Community Forestry Survey Summary



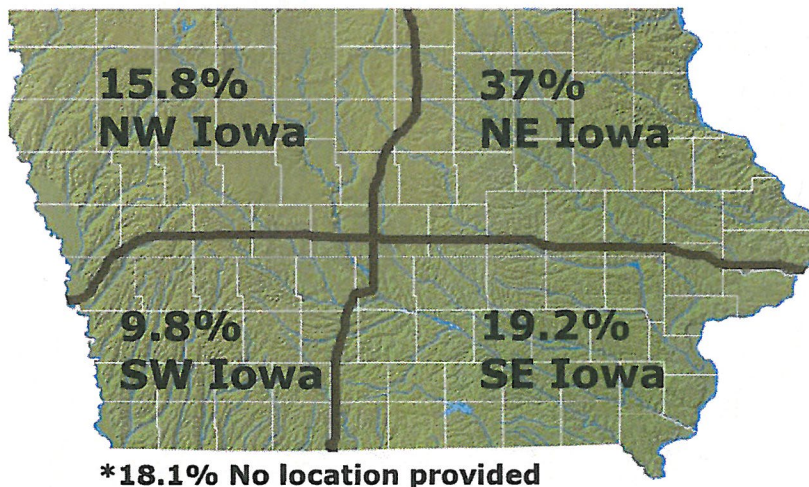
The 2010 Iowa Community Forestry Survey was conducted to learn about urban forestry needs in Iowa communities. Trees Forever engaged Iowa State University Extension Community and Economic Development to conduct a survey of Iowans involved in urban forestry projects. Respondents were asked to evaluate the implementation of community forestry projects in terms of process and effectiveness.

The survey was completed by 265 respondents, including:

- community volunteers and leaders,
- city staff, and
- elected officials

involved in urban forestry projects in their communities. The response rate was 21.4 %.

Distribution of respondents from 120 towns and cities across the state of Iowa

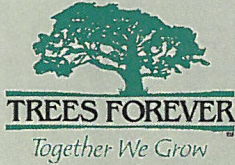


73% of respondents are willing to advocate for more state and federal funding for urban forestry projects.



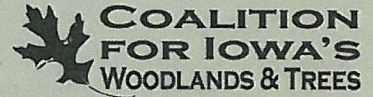
Concerns about local issues in order of importance:

- Emerald Ash Borer
- Tree Diseases
- Insect/Pest threats
- Sustaining local efforts
- Recruiting more volunteers
- Continued utility support
- Invasive Species
- Continued assistance from Trees Forever, DNR and ISU Extension
- Poor maintenance practices
- Recruiting & involving youth
- Lack of tree diversity in the community
- Vandalism

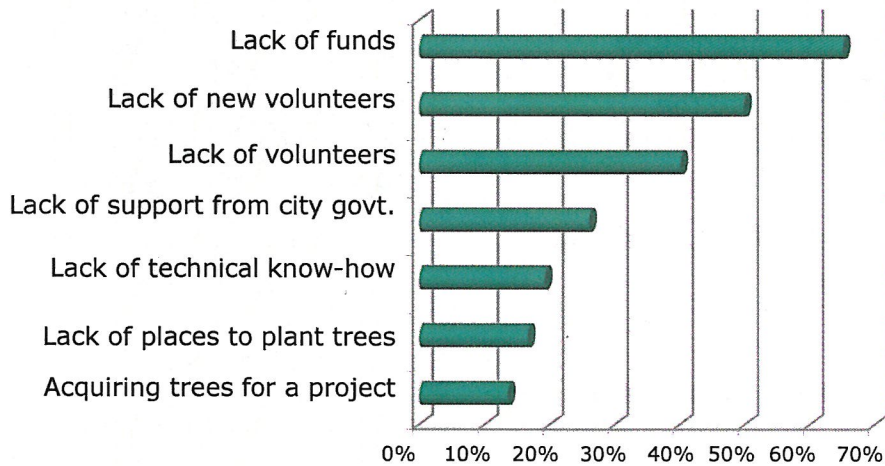


Concerns and Urgent Needs

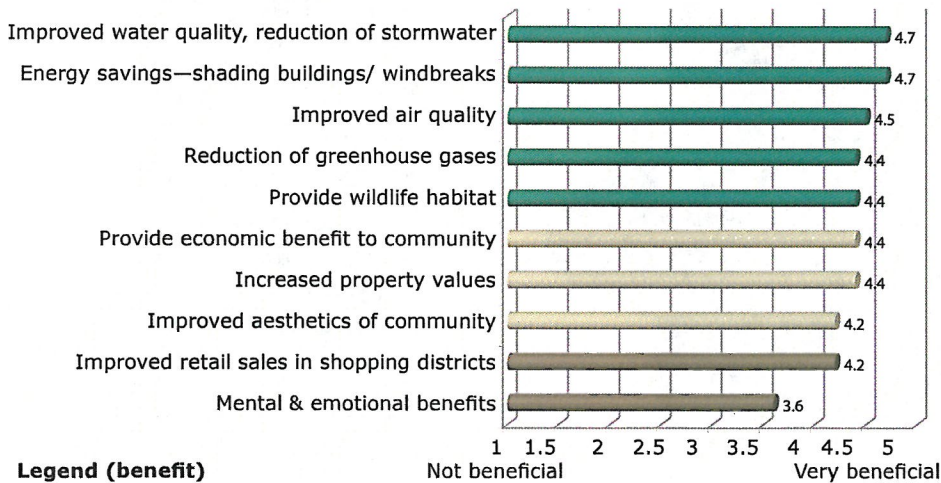
2010 Iowa Community Forestry Survey Summary



Challenges to carrying out tree planting and care projects

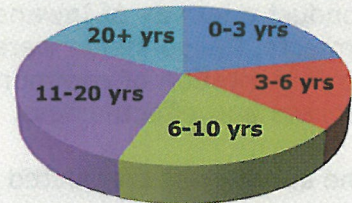


Perceived benefits of community trees



Legend (benefit)
 Energy & environment ■
 Economic & livability ■
 Quality of life & wellness ■

Respondents involvement by number of years



Respondents have been involved in many ways:

- Planting trees (84%)
- Maintenance & care of trees (73%)
- Record keeping/ preparing applications/ grant writing (59%)
- Budget & Policy (47%)
- Educational activities (42%)
- Taking photos (41%)
- Fund-raising (36%)
- Advertising (31%)
- Advocacy efforts (23%)

What you can do...

Provide More Support for Trees & Forests



MEMBERS OF THE COALITION

- Trees Forever
- Iowa Woodland Owners Association
- Iowa Nut Growers Association
- National Wild Turkey Federation
- The Iowa Tree Farm Committee
- Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation
- The Nature Conservancy, Iowa Field Office
- Iowa Urban & Community Forestry Council
- Midwest Chapter of Arborists
- Society of American Foresters
- NE Iowa Forestry Advisory Council
- Iowa Nursery & Landscape Association
- Soil & Water Conservation Districts
- Iowa Christmas Tree Growers
- Prairie Edge Woods Corporation
- Society of Municipal Arborists

GOALS OF THE COALITION

1. Woodland Health-With the presence of Emerald Ash Borer, 1000 Cankers and invasive weeds like Garlic Mustard, our woodlands are under a serious and growing threat in communities and rural Iowa. This can be addressed through increased management for both private and public landowners.

2. Education & Public Awareness-Communities and private landowners need guidance and training on managing their trees and woodlands. An investment in education now could potentially save millions of dollars.

3. Increase Funding-Iowa's forests and trees need more state investment, which will increase jobs and boost economic growth. Communities and landowners need matching grants and cost-share for better management.

LEGISLATIVE ACTION NEEDED:

- 1) Establish a Woodland and Tree Invasive Species Protection Program and Advisory Council. The program, administered by the Departments of Agriculture and Natural Resources, will develop and enact strategies and methods to protect the state's trees from invasive species through detection, surveillance, eradication, removal and replacement.
- 2) Invest in the Forest Land Enhancement Program, which funds needed conservation plantings for reforestation, wildlife habitat establishment or enhancement, forest riparian buffer establishment and timber stand improvement.

A Critical Time for Iowa's Woodlands & Trees: Overview and Economic Impact

Iowa's wood products industries generate over 3.9 billion dollars annually, employ almost 18,000 people and have an annual payroll of \$916,000,000. Iowa's woodlands support a significant portion of Iowa's recreation, tourism and hunting which is tied to activities such as camping, fall foliage tours, hiking, woodland bird watching and hunting of woodland wildlife species. Rural and community forests in Iowa significantly contribute to water quality, air quality, carbon sequestration and quality of life. Emerald Ash Borer alone will cost **Iowa communities over 2 billion dollars**, with the impact over the next 20 years approaching 10.5 billion dollars. The loss to the wood products industry will be almost 300 million per year.

Estimate by threat are as follows:

| PEST | Annual Wood Industry/Rural Landowner Impact | Community Removal & Replacement Costs & the Value of Urban Tree Benefits (energy savings, carbon sequestration, storm water retention, etc.) |
|------------------------|--|---|
| Emerald Ash Borer | \$1,000,000 | \$2,500,000,000 |
| Thousand Cankers | \$72,000,000 | \$859,000,000 |
| Bur Oak Blight | \$770,000 | \$613,000,000 |
| Gypsy Moth | \$22,000,000 | \$4,100,000,000 |
| Total (4 Pests) | \$95,779,000 | \$8,072,000,000 |

Total Request: \$3,800,000

| Service Provided | Amount |
|--|---------------------|
| Rural Landowner Incentives | \$1,000,000 |
| Community Grants and Assistance | \$1,500,000 |
| Technical Assistance and Education to Landowners and Communities | \$1,000,000 |
| Public Forest Stewardship | \$300,000 |
| Total | \$3, 800,000 |

Outcome if full funding is provided:

- Protect 2,500 acres of rural woodlands
- Help an additional 500 woodland owners with forest health threat
- Ensure public lands are managed
- Protect 75-100 communities