



**December 3 & 4, 2024**

**Event Location:**  
Crown Hill Cemetery and  
Arboretum

**Day 1: Tuesday, December 3, 2024**

12:00 – 12:15pm	<p><b>Welcoming by Executive Committee</b> <i>Aren Flint, Indiana Community Forestry Council</i></p>
12:15 – 12:30pm	<p><b>IDNR Community and Urban Forestry Update</b> <i>CUF staff</i></p>
12:30 – 1:00pm	<p><b>Introductions and Live Survey</b></p>
1:00 – 1:30pm	<p><b>USFS IRA Project Update</b> <i>Drew Hart and Liana Smale, US Forest Service</i></p> <p>The Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) was passed in 2022, providing \$1.5 billion in funds to urban and community forestry programs across the nation. IDNR CUF received \$4.125 million in state allocation, with \$3.674 million available to communities as pass-through grants, and several Indiana municipalities received funding from national pass-through partners. This update will cover the Indiana grant awardees who received direct NOFO funding from the US Forest Service, with amounts ranging from \$1 to \$12 million.</p>
1:30 – 2:00pm	<p><b>The Impact of Trees and Greenspace on Gun Violence</b> <i>Karl Selm, Keep Indianapolis Beautiful, Inc.</i></p> <p>Karl’s presentation will including preliminary research findings on the impacts of greenspaces on gun violence. Karl will also give an overview of KIB’s community forestry program and how they use GIS to measure and quantify the impacts KIB has on the urban canopy in Indianapolis.</p>
<p><b>15-minute break!</b></p>	
2:15 – 3:45pm	<p><b><u>Community Engagement Panel</u></b></p> <p><b>Community engagement? I hardly know ’em!</b> <i>Madeline Gullion, IDNR CUF</i></p> <p>What’s community engagement? What does it have to do with urban forestry? This quick presentation will introduce you to CE and its place among the trees before you hear from the rest of the community engagement panel.</p>

	<p><b>Tracing heritage neighborhood trees through history</b>  <i>Community Canopy Alliance and Aspire House</i></p> <p>The Northwest Landing Neighborhood in Indianapolis, rich in history and natural beauty, is home to numerous trees that have witnessed the evolution of the community. However, many residents are unaware of the historical and environmental value of these heritage trees. Spearheaded by local organizations Community Canopy Alliance and Aspire House, this new project aims to celebrate and protect the Heritage Trees within the community by linking them to historical events and milestones. The goals of the program include to foster community pride, promote environmental stewardship, and ensure the longevity of our urban forest.</p> <p><b>An example of local tree advocacy</b>  <i>Zelma Taylor, Save the Tree Canopy</i></p> <p>In July 2022 in Carmel, a neighborhood meeting was called to discuss a new public notice sign at the edge of the neighborhood woodlot to warn of its future “development” (destruction). This began an intense journey lasting for 2 ½ months, where neighbors banded together to advocate for the woodlot and its benefits for the neighborhood. Simply objecting to building three-story condos in the same neighborhood with one-story houses would not be sufficient to stop the development proposal. Thus, the group chose five areas to focus their objections to the proposed development.</p> <p><b>Community engagement through tornado recovery efforts</b>  <i>Town of Pendleton</i></p> <p>The Town of Pendleton will share key takeaways from the Pendleton Recovery Tree Project in response to the devastating 2019 Memorial Day Tornado that resulted in significant voids within its urban forestry landscape. This presentation will offer a behind-the-scenes look at how intentional interaction and collaboration are vital for successful tornado recovery efforts. Team members will also cover the importance of community engagement and its direct correlation with effective programming. Participants will be equipped with engagement strategies and practical tips for all stages of the initiative, from start to finish, beginning <i>before</i> the disaster hits.</p>
<p>3:45 – 4:15pm</p>	<p><b>Registered Arborist Apprenticeship Program</b>  <i>Steve Lane and Phil Graf, Great Lakes Urban Forestry</i></p> <p>Join Phil, Steve, and some special guests as we discuss Indiana's brand-new Registered Arborist Apprenticeship program! We'll talk about how this exciting new program—one of only a handful in the country—will be a rising tide for all boats as we create a pipeline for bringing quality employees entering the field of Arboriculture and Urban Forestry. You'll learn about the program and how it can help your business or organization grow. We want this to be an interactive session, so we'll invite you to ask questions, provide feedback, and share your ideas about how to make the program even stronger.</p>
<p>5:30pm</p>	<p><b>Optional Social Event @ The AMP at 16 Tech</b></p>

## Day 2: Wednesday, December 4, 2024

9:00 – 9:45am	<p><b>Crown Hill Update and Advice for Utilizing Cemetery Greenspaces</b> <i>Carrie Tauscher, Crown Hill Cemetery and Arboretum</i></p> <p>Crown Hill Cemetery, a 160-year-old rural landscape cemetery, is now a Level II-accredited arboretum. How did we get here and where are we going? Arboretum Director Carrie Tauscher will provide a brief history of the cemetery, processes leading to the site becoming an accredited arboretum through ArbNet, the learned importance of maintaining an accurate inventory for site interpretation and management in a cemetery, and some of the internal challenges of advocating for trees inside a private site that is open to the public.</p>
9:45 – 10:15am	<p><b>Interactive tools to communicate and manage urban forests</b> <i>Lindsay Darling, Morton Arboretum</i></p> <p>This talk will showcase a suite of new digital tools from the Morton Arboretum's Chicago Region Trees Initiative. These tools help foresters detect shrubby invasives, identify places to plant trees, apply for grants, and offer a variety of ways to communicate the importance of our urban forest and engage with community partners and the broader public. While many of these tools are geared towards the Chicago region, this talk will discuss how they could be expanded to other areas.</p>
<b>15-minute break!</b>	
10:30 – 11:00am	<p><b>Planting Trees for Climate Mitigation in a Rural Community</b> <i>Kathryn Lisinicchia, Earth Charter Indiana</i></p> <p>What does climate advocacy look like in a rural community when the term “climate change” is scarcely and cautiously utilized? Or where environmentalism and conservation carry differing political connotations? Nature-based solutions provide tangible opportunities for communal climate action as well as individual empowerment. They also provide a neutral space to find common ground between viewpoints through a focus on local project benefits. This presentation will explore how tree planting projects have engaged community action and the variety of resources that have been essential to increasing rural environmental resiliency.</p>
11:00 – 11:30am	<p><b>Trees and Tees: Promoting Your Urban Forestry Org</b> <i>Kristina Arwood, Wesselman Woods</i></p> <p>How can urban forestry organizations use merchandise and promotional materials to increase visibility, engage supporters, and enhance fundraising efforts? Let’s talk about it! In this presentation, we’ll cover the ways some nonprofits combine their mission, values, and branding into successful promotional items and campaigns. Afterward, participants can trade items from their organizations and share their own stories of merch madness!</p>

11:30am – 12:00pm	<p><b>Urban Forestry Planning from a Nursery Perspective</b>  <i>Bill DeBoer, Woody Warehouse Nursery</i></p> <p>Lack of communication between buyers and nurseries and lack of buyer knowledge of the tree production chain can cause problems on both sides for growing and planting trees. Come learn about how nurseries make growing decisions and how to be an empowered tree purchaser within your network of tree nurseries.</p>
<p><b>Lunch + Sponsors + Photo Contest Winner(s)!</b></p>	
12:30 – 2:00pm	<p><b><u>Project Implementation Panel</u></b></p> <p><b>Cutting Out Callery Pear with Cost Share</b>  <i>Claire Lane, Hamilton County Soil and Water Conservation District</i></p> <p>In a county where Callery (Bradford) pear historically dominated as a preferred street and landscape tree, the Hamilton County SWCD has utilized three cost share initiatives to encourage private landowners to remove their cultivated specimens and wild infestations. Learn about the successes and challenges of our landscape pear, trade in, and restoration cost share programs.</p> <p><b>Starting &amp; Implementing an AmeriCorps Program</b>  <i>Bryce Patz, Indy Parks and Recreation</i></p> <p>AmeriCorps is a federal agency that connects young people with organizations to help communities through service and volunteering. AmeriCorps programs can increase capacity of municipal urban forestry programs, and they provide an avenue for mentoring the next generation urban foresters. Come to learn about the logistics and benefits of creating an AmeriCorps program from Bryce Patz, who has now implemented AmeriCorps programs through West Lafayette and Indy Parks and Rec.</p> <p><b>Starting a Community Orchard: Logistics &amp; Lessons Learned</b>  <i>Bloomington Community Orchard</i></p> <p>Bloomington Community Orchard is a successful all-volunteer initiative operating on public parks land, and communities around the country (and world) have started contacting the Orchard with questions about how to plant a public food forest of their own. Volunteer leaders will speak about the Orchard’s history and experience, while offering context on how to plan and plant a community orchard in your community.</p>
2:00 – 4:00pm	<p><b>End-of-Year IN-CFC Meeting</b></p>

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