CommuniTree:
Partnerships for Tree Planting & Research

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Stakeholders

- U.S. Forest Service (USFS) – **Drew Hart**
- Student Conservation Association (SCA)
- Northwestern Indiana Regional Planning Committee (NIRPC)
- Wildlife Habitat Council
- Indiana Department of Natural Resources (IDNR) Coastal Program
- Northwest Indiana Urban Waters Partnership
- Northern Indiana Public Service Company (NIPSCO)/Arbormetrics
- Dunes Learning Center
- The Nature Conservancy
- Municipalities: East Chicago, Gary, Hammond, Whiting
Collaborative
... Multi-organizational
... Grant-funded
... Tree-planting
... Partnership

Stakeholders

Plant + Maintain Trees

Benefits of Trees for Communities
What’s unique about CommuniTree partnership?

- Common agenda
- Shared measurement for data & results
- Mutually-reinforcing activities
- Open/continuous communication
- "Backbone" coordinating organization

https://ssir.org/articles/entry/colllective_impact
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CommuniTree

Trees are essential in our lives. They help clean our air and water, reduce flooding, create habitat for wildlife and provide significant social and health benefits for people.

In northwest Indiana, the CommuniTree program grew out of the need to promote tree planting, after-planting care and maintenance of trees. CommuniTree is supported by a dynamic partnership of community, industry and government agencies with the ultimate goal of creating a healthier and more diverse tree population.

Join the Northwestern Indiana Regional Planning Commission and CommuniTree today to help plant and care for thousands of trees throughout our region. Gain access to trees, tree care workshops and technical support for your community by applying for a CommuniTree partnership grant. We welcome your interest and involvement as a funder or planting partner.

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Metrics

- **1,000+** native trees planted in 2017
- Administered to grant recipients – schools, municipalities, community groups can request trees
- OR trees are planted by SCA crew
- Trees watered for 2 years, mostly by municipalities
- Goal of engaging more volunteers
Grant dollars fund a Student Conservation Association Crew
CommuniTree + DePaul LUFA = Research!

Research Questions:

1. What are stakeholder motivations and desired outcomes for CommuniTree?
2. What resources (funding, time, personnel, material, etc.) are stakeholders allocating to the CommuniTree effort and to what activities are these resources dedicated?
3. What are the observed environmental (ecological) and community (social) outcomes of CommuniTree?
4. How does the surrounding socio-environmental context influence CommuniTree stakeholders & participants and observed environmental & community outcomes?

www.lufa-depaul.org/communitree
Creating a **sustainable** CommuniTree
Questions?
Stakeholders & Participants

- U.S. Forest Service State & Private Forestry Northeastern Area
- Student Conservation Association (SCA)
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CommuniTree program happening in an existing **SOCIO-ENVIRONMENTAL CONTEXT**

...prior and surrounding land use, biodiversity, ecological characteristics
...existing relationships & networks between community groups & CommuniTree partners & stakeholders
...environmental constraints (soil & water contamination)
...historical socio-economic & cultural dynamics
...values, norms, knowledge of trees/stewardship of different community groups
...etc.

Resources: Funding, Time, Personnel

- Tree activities
  - Pre-planting planning, etc.
  - Tree planting (trees in ground & characteristics of these trees?)
  - Post-planting tree care & maintenance
  - Education & outreach activities
  - Volunteer & community participation

Desired/Possible Outcomes

- Environmental outcomes
  - Tree survival & subsequent provision of benefits (stormwater management most crucial)
  - Character of conservation and restoration areas
  - Other biophysical, ecological, or environmental outcomes defined by stakeholders

- Community outcomes
  - Stewardship capacity
  - Level of participation & buy-in of different stakeholders, including industry partners
  - Education, awareness & attitudes about conservation, tree planting and related CommuniTree goals
  - Employment & training opportunities for tree planting crews

- Human health outcomes
  - Improved relations between municipality and citizens
  - Mitigation of future costs for municipalities and private stakeholders by proper planting practices

External funding agencies
Calumet Tree Conservation Corps (SCA)

$369,646.65

- BP
- National Fish & Wildlife Foundation
- "In Kind"
- Morton Arboretum
- U.S. Forest Service - Drew Hart
- Student Conservation Association

Local Municipalities
- East Chicago, Hammond, Gary, Whiting
- Watering + Staff time

Tree Planting
- Equipment $300
- 1,225 Native Trees $293,340

Crew
- Lunches $1,260
- Clothing $225
- Crew Member wages $46,843
- Crew Leader salary $25,209
- Crew Leader training $1,100
- Vans & Gas $21,994
- Crew Leader travel $250

Transportation
- 1,225 Trees planted (400 of which by volunteers)

Volunteer
- 500 Community volunteers
- 3 hours per volunteer (approx.)
- $23.38/hr

Administration
- Recruiting $120
- Program Evaluation $448
- Program Support $7,303

Local Staff
- Crew Member wages $46,843
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Municipalities
- East Chicago, Hammond, Gary, Whiting
- Watering + Staff time

Watering Services $12,734

Recruiting $120

Local Staff
- 140 hours per municipality
- $15.58/hour

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