

# CommuniTree:

Partnerships for Tree Planting & Research





### **Dr. Jess Vogt**

Assistant Professor Environmental Science & Studies DePaul University

> <u>www.lufa-depaul.org</u> jess.vogt@depaul.edu

### 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
- OMunicipalities: East Chicago, Gary, Hammond, Whiting

### Collaborative

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Multiorganizational

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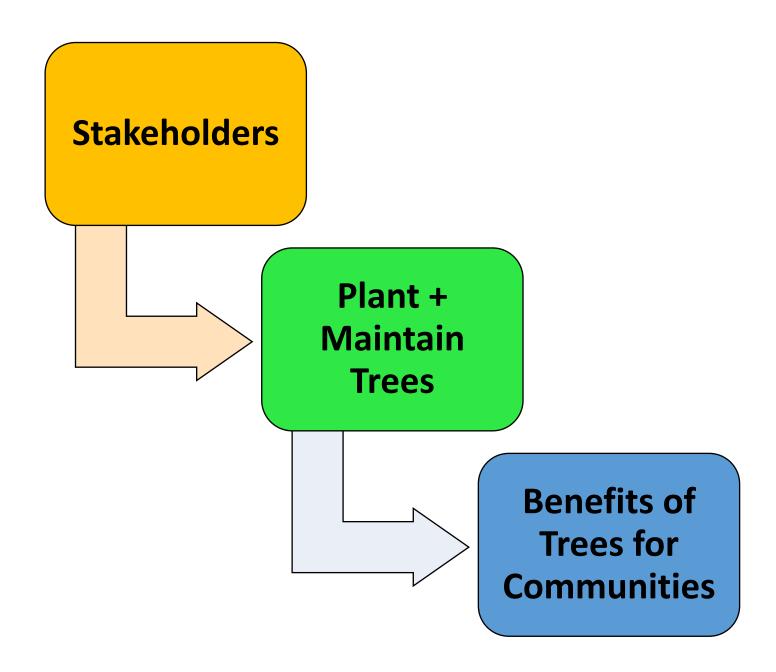
Grant-funded

. . .

Tree-planting

. . .

Partnership



Common agenda

What's ope unique con about CommuniTree partnership?

Open/continuous communication

"Backbone" coordinating organization

COLLECTIVE IMPACT Shared measurement for data & results

Mutuallyreinforcing activities

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Government

Nonprofit

Partnership group

**Private sector** 



**⇔** GROWTH & CONSERVATION

**□** TRANSPORTATION

**Ø** ENVIRONMENT

HUMAN & ECONOMIC RESOURCES

#### 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, afterplanting 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 <del>></del>
- 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?



# Creating a <u>sustainable</u> CommuniTree

10 years

5 years

Now







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# Questions?

External funding agencies

# Stakeholders & Participants

- Resc e State & Fu
- U.S. Forest Service State & Private Forestry Northeastern Area
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#### Resources: Funding, Time, Personnel

#### CommuniTree Capacity

- 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

### 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.

## 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

