



Ohio Chapter ISA Education Grant Application

If you have any questions, please email dhettinger@treefund.org or call 630-369-8300 x204.

Applicant

Organization

Organization name	Cuyahoga River Community Planning
Mailing address	1299 Superior Ave E
Mailing address line 2	
City	Cleveland
State/province	OH
Zip/post code	44114
Country	US
Has this organization received previous funding from the TREE Fund?	No
If yes, was the funding for this project?	
Previous TREE Fund awards	

Contact Person

Prefix	Ms.
First name	Jane
Last name	Goodman
Title	Executive Director
Email address	goodmanj@cuyahogariver.org
Phone number	216-241-2414 x610

Person Responsible for the Project

Prefix	Ms.
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First name	Jane
Last name	Goodman
Title	Executive Director
Email address	goodmanj@cuyahogariver.org
Phone number	216-241-2414 x610
Degrees and related experience	Ms. Goodman has been managing successful urban forestry education programs for twenty years, first with Clean-Land, Ohio and now with Cuyahoga River Restoration (aka Cuyahoga River Community Planning,) where she began the Cuyahoga ReLeaf program.

She has created and published several community forestry-related publications, most recently "Woods for Waters: a guide to planting riparian buffers for healthy streams"; "Citizen Forestree", a brochure for homeowners and landscapers; the "Woods for Watersheds guide for communities"; and "Plant a Tree, Save a Fish." In 1996, as Education and Outreach Director for Clean-Land, Ohio, she developed Citizen Forester and Student Forester education programs and materials, workshops and hands-on projects for the City of Cleveland's bicentennial Trees for Tomorrow program.

She managed the 2012 Cuyahoga ReLeaf project to inventory the tree-related ordinances for 75 communities in the Cuyahoga Area of Concern and Rocky River watersheds, and held four workshops for municipal arborists, city officials and partner agencies to identify and prioritize planting areas and review and update codes. She also coordinated two Urban Tree Canopy Assessment workshops in 2013-2014, one to familiarize urban foresters with the concept and one to train in the use of new assessments. In 2014 she organized the first "Growing Together" Forest Summit to bring together the parties working on tree projects in northeast Ohio, to develop a framework for collaboration and facilitate cooperation and a common set of goals and priorities for future work.

She has worked with Ohio's regional urban forester on many programs, and is a graduate of Tree Commission Academy.

Project

Project title	Tree Training Intensives
Type of request	Project support
Description of the project for which funds are requested	We propose to present three full-day workshops, one in each of three Great Lakes Areas of Concern - the Cuyahoga River AOC (Cleveland/Akron,) the Black River AOC (Lorain,) and the Maumee River AOC (Toledo.)

Target participants will include:

- Tree commission members from communities throughout northern Ohio, to provide them with the basic knowledge and tools necessary to be effective tree stewards in their communities;

- Students age 16 and over, to engage them in the art and science of urban forestry and encourage entry into the arborist profession; and
- Municipal employees, to provide them with training related to the use of trees and tree canopy as effective stormwater control measures for their MS4 municipalities, for which they would receive credit in their cities' NPDES Phase II stormwater reporting.

The workshops will be held at Cuyahoga Community College, Lorain Community College, and the University of Toledo, so as to involve students from these schools and surrounding high schools.

Each workshop will include three parts:

1. A half-day intensive version of Ohio DNR's Tree Commission Academy, focusing on how trees function in general and relative to urban settings; tree choice and tree plans; support and maintenance.
2. A session on what professional arborists do and how they support and maintain urban forests on public and private lands.
3. Hands-on exercises involving riparian buffer planning and planting, and a health-identification survey of trees on the venue property with an introduction to i-Tree tools to assess the benefits of the surveyed trees.

What makes this project unique?

Although we have included similar activities in various workshops in the Cuyahoga AOC, this will be the first time that we are able to pull together these three subject matters and activities into one workshop, the first time that this intensive training will take place in all three of the Areas of Concern watersheds, and the first time that we specifically connect the role of arborists and community foresters and the health of urban forests to stormwater management for water quality, which is a major issue in the Lake Erie basin.

The workbook we produce for the workshops and for after-workshop guidance will be the first to include clear steps and strategies for each role in the urban forestry realm. It will combine elements of Tree Commission Academy, Tree Canopy Assessments, community outreach, and other materials, into one handbook to help communities engage all the people and all the moving parts into a whole urban forest support program.

Why is it needed?

We need to bring trees and urban forests to the top of communities' priorities, and budgets, rather than their remaining afterthoughts or purely aesthetic, and therefore discretionary, pieces of community planning and infrastructure. As municipal budgets are trimmed, our urban forests are diminishing. At the same time, older trees that provide more ecosystem services aren't getting the maintenance they deserve and need.

We need to reverse that trend by supporting those who can make better decisions and whose voices could be influential.

Healthy urban forests are an essential part of the ecosystem of cities, yet they are too often treated as merely aesthetic landscape features and too infrequently treated as living, breathing, water-retaining parts of a city's and a watershed's infrastructure.

If we can train more knowledgeable ambassadors (tree

commissions,) decision makers (tree commissioners, landscapers, arborists, city foresters,) and future leaders and practitioners (students) to advocate on behalf of trees as integral parts of all land management, we can raise the level of respect for urban forestry among whole communities.

In these coastal communities especially, where nutrient overloads are creating algae problems in Lake Erie, we need more community leaders who understand how effective and economical trees can be as ways to prevent and manage nutrient runoff, whether in urban or agricultural areas. If we can turn the attention of community leaders to focus on trees as solutions to those problems, we can make a big difference in the health of our communities and Great Lakes.

Description of what outcomes are expected as a result of this project

We expect that these workshops will populate a number of northern Ohio communities with more knowledgeable people in a variety of roles within their communities. this, in turn, will lead to a heightened respect for trees and the arborists who care for them, and better decision making with regard to tree care and maintenance.

Participants will leave with a deeper understanding of how trees function, how they work within the ecosystem, how they enhance the health and welfare of communities, and how to maintain trees and manage an urban forest.

The outcome will be

- a.) more effective tree commissions in northern Ohio communities, which would in turn serve as better liaisons between arborists and decision makers and this would result in healthier urban forests;
- b.) a new crop of potential arborists among students inspired to enter professions involved in tree care, forestry, or forest management; and
- c.) a cohort of municipal employees with a better appreciation for non-structural stormwater management practices and a better understanding of how to incorporate trees into their operations as green infrastructure.

At least 3 measurable goals to determine the success of this project

1. To train at least 150 (at least 50 in each of three Areas of Concern) community leaders, students, tree commission members, and municipal employees.
2. To provide take-home materials that participants can use in their communities to share with colleagues and use as models for local tree programs.
3. To assess selected groups of trees in the area of the workshops using i-Tree tools, and show how they can use the methods in measuring, evaluating, and communicating the benefits and maintenance needs of the trees in their own communities.

Method for assessing achievement of project goals

1. Number and type of participant - we will achieve the goal if we have at least 50 participants at each workshop, or at least 20 communities represented.
2. Materials - we will achieve the goal if we provide each participant with a comprehensive suite of tools that will be simple to use and to redistribute in their communities, including model tree ordinances, outreach and education materials, and public engagement program outlines they can use to hold local activities.

3. Tree assessments - we will achieve the goal if each workshop results in a report on the surveyed trees, which will be sent to each participant as an incentive to continue the work, and that can be replicated with local groups of students and tree commissions.

We will ask each participant to complete a post-workshop evaluation form specifically asking how they will use the training, materials, and experiences in their own communities, and what additional assistance they might need or find useful.

Plans for sustaining the project after the grant

To provide a measure of accountability for each trainee, we will send a news release and/or letter to each participant's Mayor and local media outlet recognizing the participant's having completed the course and describing how that will benefit the community.

Immediately after the trainings, and on a quarterly basis for a year afterward, we will send email surveys to all participants asking how they are using the training and materials.

Project start date

08/01/2015

Project completion date

07/31/2016

Timeline

August - November 2015:

> Develop workshop agenda, schedule workshops and reserve venues, prepare and distribute recruitment materials, open online registration

December 2015 - March 2016:

> Recruit participants, prepare course curricula and materials,

April - June 2016: Hold workshops, send out recognition letters, press releases, surveys, and supplemental materials.

July 2016: Followup support, report on grant activities and on results of followup outreach and participant accomplishments.

Is this a new project for your organization?

Yes

Project Budget

Total project budget

\$7,500.00

Amount requested

\$5,000.00

Other Sources of Funding

Source 1

Name

Cuyahoga River Community Planning

Amount requested

\$1,500.00

Amount received or committed

\$1,500.00

Source 2

Name	Partners for Clean Streams (Maumee AOC)
Amount requested	\$500.00
Amount received or committed	\$500.00

Source 3

Name	Lorain County Dept. of Public Health (Black River AOC)
Amount requested	\$500.00
Amount received or committed	\$500.00

Source 4

Name
Amount requested
Amount received or committed

Organization

Date of organization's incorporation

01/01/1989

Summary of organization's history, mission and goals

Cuyahoga River Community Planning (aka Cuyahoga River Restoration) was created in 1989 as the 501c3 nonprofit charged with coordinating the cleanup of the Cuyahoga River and its Great Lakes Remedial Action Plan Area of Concern (AOC.)

Our mission is to restore and protect the 800-square-mile Cuyahoga watershed and ten miles of adjacent Lake Erie tributaries.

We developed the master restoration (delisting) plan for the Cuyahoga River Remedial Action Plan (RAP) Area of Concern and over the years have developed land use plans, wetland and stream assessments, and numerous outreach and education programs.

Over the years we had gathered enough scientific evidence to make the case that the healthiest streams were those protected by or within forested areas. We created Cuyahoga ReLeaf as a program with the goals of improving and protecting the watershed's forest canopy as an essential element in restoring and protecting streams and aquatic life, moderating water temperatures, reducing runoff of sediment, pollutants and nutrients, and managing stormwater to reduce combined sewer overflows.

We are working with communities to identify vacant land on which to develop neighborhood nurseries to raise trees for local reforestation

efforts.

This year we will be introducing DepaveNEO, an initiative to remove paved areas, especially unused, excess, or abandoned parking lots, and replacing pavement with trees.

List of other organizations in your area with a purpose similar to your organization and description of collaboration, if appropriate

Ohio DNR, Division of Forestry - Regional Urban Foresters Alan Siewert and Stephanie Miller will assist with developing and presenting the workshops and recruiting tree commission members.

Partners for Clean Streams (Maumee River Area of Concern) will recruit participants, work with University of Toledo (venue) on workshop logistics, and host the workshop for northwest Ohio communities and students.

The Lorain County General Health District (Black River Area of Concern) will recruit participants, work with Lorain Community College (venue) on workshop logistics, and host the workshop for mid-coastal Ohio communities and students.

For the Cleveland/Akron area workshop we will work with Cuyahoga Community College (venue), and the following organizations to help recruit participants and assist with workshop materials and workbook preparation:

- Holden Arboretum/Cleveland Botanical Garden
- Cleveland Metroparks and its Watershed Stewardship Center
- Summit County Metroparks
- Doan Brook, Euclid Creek, Rocky River, Big Creek, West Creek, Mill Creek, Mud Brook, Brandywine Creek, and Little Cuyahoga watershed stewardship groups.

Organization Budget

Fiscal year start date 01/01/2015

Current Year's Budget

Total organization budget	\$283,000.00
Organization fundraising costs	\$6,000.00
Organization administrative costs	\$58,000.00

Next Year's Projected Budget

Total organization budget	\$523,000.00
Organization fundraising costs	\$20,000.00
Organization administrative costs	\$63,000.00

Principle Source of Support

Please provide figures as a percentage of the organization's total budget. The total support should equal 100.

United Way	0
Government contract	80
Foundation or corporate	15
Earned income	0
Individual contributions	5
Total support	100

Applications will be scored on the following scale:

- Relevant staff are qualified (0-10)
- Project increases knowledge in arboriculture or urban forestry (0-25)
- Project is hands-on (0-15)
- Need is defined (0-15)
- Objectives are clearly stated and adequately assessed (0-15)
- Timeline is feasible (0-10)
- Budget is clear and reasonable for the project (0-10)

Your application will not be available for editing after it has been submitted.
Please review your application for completion before submission.

