



City Forest Credits

Afforestation and Reforestation Project Application

1. Project Name

City of Des Moines Urban Tree Planting 2023

2. Project Operator

Provide the name of organization/entity and contact information for the Project Lead

Organization/Entity: Trees Forever

Address: 80 W. 8th Ave

City: Marion

State: Iowa

Zip: 52302

Contact(s): Megan Schneider, Director of Programs

Phone: 515-776-0335

Email: mschneider@treesforever.org

3. Project Location

Project must be in or adjacent to one of the following. Describe which one of the criteria the project meets and provide name of city, town, or jurisdiction where project is located.

- *“Urban Area” per Census Bureau maps*
- *An incorporated or unincorporated city or town*
- *A planning area for a regional metropolitan planning agency or entity*
- *Land owned, designated, and used by a municipal or quasi-municipal entity for source water or watershed protection*
- *A transportation or utility right of way through one of above*

This project falls within the limits of the City of Des Moines, an incorporated city.

4. Project Description

Provide short narrative of the overall project goals, location where trees will be planted, land ownership or eligibility to receive credits, approximate number of trees or acres, main tree species, and project timeframe.

This project includes 1,951 trees that were planted throughout the City of Des Moines in spring and fall 2023. Tree planting locations are a mix of street tree plantings on city-owned rights-of-way and city-owned parks, but with the major focus on street tree plantings. The main species planted include oak (red, bur, swamp white), London planetree, American elm, northern hackberry, Kentucky coffeetree, honeylocust, crabapple, redbud, Japanese tree lilac.

Trees Forever plants trees on behalf of the City of Des Moines and works closely with the City on all aspects of the planting including identifying sites to plant, communication with area citizens, and general promotion of the work. As the Project Operator, Trees Forever will sign an agreement with the City to develop carbon credits for trees planted for this project. The main project goals are to increase tree equity across the city by targeting trees to under-resourced neighborhoods, work with Trees Forever's Growing Futures teen employees and area volunteers to plant trees, and to complete major street corridor plantings.

Throughout 2023, Trees Forever will plant and care for trees through the Growing Futures program, a youth-centered worker program, to address critical social, economic, and environmental needs in Des Moines. Growing Futures uses a thoughtfully designed and hands-on approach to give Iowa's young people needed workplace skills and open doors for them to green careers all while planting trees.

5. Project Impacts

Provide short narrative of the environmental, social, and health impacts this project will achieve. Examples include how the project addresses increased access to green spaces for under-resourced communities, flood control or watershed protection, benefits for human health and wellbeing, improved recreation opportunities, or protection of bird and wildlife habitat.

The overarching goals and impact of this tree planting project is to:

Grow leaders by employing and training young people

In Iowa, the highest rates of unemployment are among young people, age 16-19, at rates of 16.5% and African-American and Hispanic youth experiencing unemployment rates of 14.8% and 9%, respectively.

Grow more beautiful, greener communities and neighborhoods

As trees grow and thrive because of the care they receive from Growing Futures youth, the trees will improve resident's quality-of-life.

Grow more trees in underserved communities

Research shows a large discrepancy in tree cover between high- and low-income neighborhoods. We must ensure there is equitable distribution of tree benefits to all neighborhoods in our community.

Deliver quantified environmental benefits

This project will deliver quantified and reportable CO2 sequestration, stormwater reductions, energy savings, and air quality improvements.

6. Planting Design and Quantification Method

Provide short narrative about the planting design and quantification method you will use for the project. Refer to Protocol Appendix A for more detail.

- *Single Tree Quantification Method: trees planted in a dispersed or scattered design that are planted at least 10 feet apart (i.e. street trees). This method requires tracking of individual trees and tree survival for sampling and quantification.*
- *Clustered Quantification Method: trees planted at least 10 feet apart but are relatively contiguous and designed to create canopy over an area (i.e. park-like settings). This method requires tracking change in canopy, not individual tree survival.*
- *Area Reforestation Quantification Method: tree planting areas greater than 5 acres and where many trees are planted closer than 10 feet. Higher tree mortality is expected and the goals are to create canopy and a forest ecosystem. Project Operators have several quantification models to choose from, all of which produce a carbon index on a per-acre basis.*

Trees are planted along city streets and in city parks using the Single Tree planting design. Trees are planted along a linear stretch of road, in the right-of-way in front of a residential property around the city, and in parks. Depending on the location and type of tree, trees are planted either 20 or 30 feet on center.

All trees are mapped utilizing the City of Des Moines mapping software – TreeKeeper from Davey Resource Group. Mapping includes latitude and longitude of each tree, species, tree health information, and more.

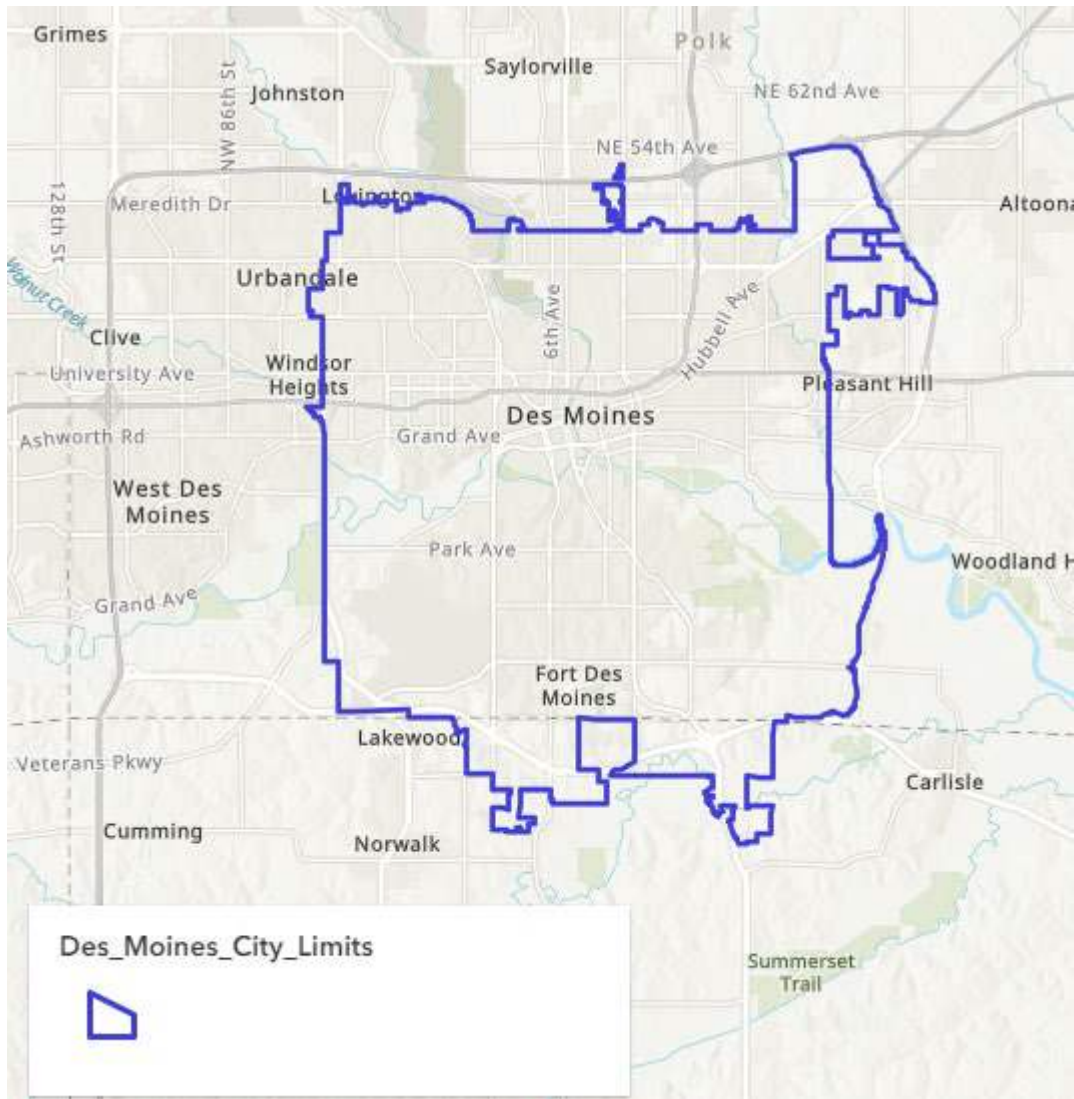
7. Additional Information

Provide additional information about your project. If the Project is part of a larger program or planting effort, include one sentence with more information. Examples include collaboration with other partners or how this project fits into a regional initiative.

Trees Forever works closely with a wide variety of community partners to make this work happen. This is the fourth carbon project that Trees Forever has conducted in partnership with the City of Des Moines. The City of Des Moines Public Works (and its forestry department) is a strong supporter of this project and is fully on board with carbon crediting all new trees planted in the city. Other partners include City of Des Moines Parks and Recreation, Invest DSM – a program focused on four key neighborhoods in the city and where an extra investment of tree planting is occurring. Many other supporting partners pop up along the way including Wright Service Corps/Wright Tree Service that have donated equipment and vehicles to help achieve the tree planting and care work being done. Additionally, Trees Forever is at the forefront of a Million Trees campaign for Central Iowa that would see one million trees planted and preserved by 2032. The trees planted as part of this project will be counted towards this million tree campaign.

8. Map

The following shows the project area map for the City of Des Moines Urban Tree Planting 2023 project. All tree plantings will happen within the city-owned rights-of-way or parks within the city boundaries of Des Moines.



Signed on December 14 in 2023, by Debra Powers, Interim CEO, for Trees Forever.

Debra M. Powers
Signature

Debra M. Powers
Printed Name

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