

Forestry Survey 2015

June 5, 2015

A survey was compiled by a subgroup of the Sustainable Community Network (SCN) to better understand the responsibilities of local forestry staff, issues they are facing and how the SCN may be of assistance. The survey was sent via email to local forestry staff within the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources Northeast Region (NER). The NER region includes the counties of Brown, Calumet, Dodge, Door, Fond du Lac, Green Lake, Kewaunee, Manitowoc, Marinette, Marquette, Menominee, Oconto, Outagamie, Shawano, Waupaca, Waushara, and Winnebago.

A total of 12 people, most (92%) representing urban towns (8%), villages (33%), cities (50%) and counties (8%) responded to the survey. All were responsible for public tree care and planting, and species selection and diversity within their respective jurisdictions. In addition, two-thirds were responsible for addressing invasive species, while 83 percent worked with local residents on tree and plant issues.

Over half of the respondents felt additional staff was their greatest need; about a third of the remaining respondents thought more money was the greatest need. Only 9 percent indicated that the local ordinance needed revising. Respondents were evenly divided when asked if they have an adopted tree management plan; half responded yes, while half said no. Slightly over half (58%) of the respondents felt that the local ordinance supports the tree management plan, while the remaining respondents (42%) felt that local ordinances occasionally supports the tree management plan. Tree management plans differed regarding items that it included: Ninety percent of tree management plans include tree species, removal and replacement policies, while 70 percent have tree diversity goals. Less than half (40%) of the plans cover tree and plant bans, invasive species management (20%) and tree canopy goals (10%).

Most respondents (90%) indicated that they already use native plantings when possible. Of the remaining two respondents, one person said that they occasionally use native plantings, and the other said that while they don't use native plantings now, it is something that they would like to do in the future. Though, only a small percentage of respondents already use green infrastructure (17%) or tree canopy planning (8%), most would be interested in tree canopy planning (67%) and green infrastructure (17%). A third of the respondents indicated that the jurisdiction they represent has limited programs to encourage private tree planting and care, and two-thirds indicated that their primary focus is on public trees. Seventy percent of the respondents see a potential to develop stormwater credits that can be used to develop tree canopy cover.

About three-quarters (73%) of the respondents felt that others could support their efforts by developing public/private partnerships to assist with tree and shrub acquisition, and over half (55%) felt that others could assist with invasive plant education. Less than half indicated that others could help with grant writing (46%), ordinance review and revision (36%) and providing

volunteer labor (37%). When asked which specific areas in the local ordinance was outdated and needed to be addressed; one person indicated that Dutch elm disease right of way clearances were a specific area.

Below is a summary of the results to the survey:

- 50 percent of the respondents represent a city and a third represents a village.
- 92 percent of the respondents represent an urban jurisdiction.
- All are responsible for public tree care and planting and species selection and diversity.
- Over half feel that their greatest need is additional staff.
- Half have an adopted 5-year tree management plan, half do not.
- Over half feel that their ordinances compliment their tree management plan.
- 10 percent of tree management plans include tree canopy goals.
- 20 percent of tree management plans include invasive species management and encourage native trees and plants.
- About 90 percent use native plantings when possible.
- Most do not do tree canopy planning or conduct any type of green infrastructure, though interest is there to do both.
- About three-quarters feel that the development of public/private partnerships to assist with tree/shrub acquisition may be the best way that others can support their efforts.

Survey Data

1. Do you represent a:

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Town	8.3%	1
Village	33.3%	4
City	50.0%	6
County	8.3%	1
Other (please specify)		0
<i>answered question</i>		12
<i>skipped question</i>		0

2. Do you consider your jurisdiction to be mainly:

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Urban	91.7%	11
Rural	8.3%	1
<i>answered question</i>		12
<i>skipped question</i>		0

3. What are your job responsibilities? Check all that apply.

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Public tree care and planting	100.0%	12
Species selection and diversity	100.0%	12
Addressing invasive species	66.7%	8
Working with private citizens on tree and plant issues	83.3%	10
Other (please specify)		0
answered question		12
skipped question		0

4. What do you feel is your greatest need?

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Additional staff	54.5%	6
More money	36.4%	4
Ordinance revisions	9.1%	1
Change in public attitudes	0.0%	0
Other (please specify)		0
answered question		11
skipped question		1

5. Do you have an adopted 5 year tree management plan?

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Yes	50.0%	6
No	50.0%	6
Unsure	0.0%	0
Other (please specify)		1
answered question		12
skipped question		0
Number	Other (please specify)	
1	policies	

6. Does your ordinance complement your tree management plan?

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Supports	58.3%	7
Sometimes supports	41.7%	5
Conflicts	0.0%	0
Other (please specify)		0
answered question		12
skipped question		0

7. Which of these items are included in your tree management plan? Check all that apply.

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Tree diversity goals	70.0%	7
Tree canopy goals	10.0%	1
Tree species	90.0%	9
Native trees and plants encouraged	20.0%	2
Invasive species management	20.0%	2
Tree removal/replacement policies	90.0%	9
Tree/plant bans	40.0%	4
Other (please specify)		0
<i>answered question</i>		10
<i>skipped question</i>		2

8. Do you use or would like to use native plantings when possible?

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Already use when possible	90.9%	10
Don't use now, but would like to use in the future	9.1%	1
No, not interested in native plantings	0.0%	0
Other (please specify)		1
<i>answered question</i>		11
<i>skipped question</i>		1
Number	Other (please specify)	
1	sometimes	

9. Do you have or wish to conduct any type of green infrastructure or canopy planning? Check all that apply.

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Already use green infrastructure	16.7%	2
Already use canopy planning	8.3%	1
Interested, but do not currently use green infrastructure	41.7%	5
Interested, but do not currently do canopy planning	66.7%	8
Not interested in green infrastructure	0.0%	0
Not interested in canopy planning	0.0%	0
<i>answered question</i>		12
<i>skipped question</i>		0

10. Does your community have any programs to encourage private tree planting and care?

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Yes, but very limited	33.3%	4
Yes, very robust	0.0%	0
No, we focus only on public trees	66.7%	8
Other (please specify)		0
<i>answered question</i>		12
<i>skipped question</i>		0

11. Do you see a potential to develop stormwater credits to develop tree canopy cover?

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Yes	70.0%	7
No	30.0%	3
Other (please specify)		1
<i>answered question</i>		10
<i>skipped question</i>		2

Number	Other (please specify)
1	it would be great because we have an established canopy

12. How might others best support your management efforts? Check all that apply.

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Assist with ordinance review and revisions	36.4%	4
Volunteer labor	36.4%	4
Develop public/private partnerships to assist with tree/shrub acquisition	72.7%	8
Assist with grant writing	45.5%	5
Assist with invasive plant education	54.5%	6
Other (please specify)		0
<i>answered question</i>		11
<i>skipped question</i>		1

13. Are there specific areas in your ordinances that are outdated and you would like to address?

Are there specific areas in your ordinances that are outdated and you would like to address?		Response Count
Answer Options		3
<i>answered question</i>		3
<i>skipped question</i>		9
Number	Response Text	
1	No, revised 2007 Dutch Elm Disease	
2	Right of Way clearances	
3	No	

14. Is there anything else you would like to tell us?

Answer Options	Response Count
	0
<i>answered question</i>	0
<i>skipped question</i>	12