

Project Name: Treesville Tree Restoration

Over the past two years the City of Treesville has endured the loss of many trees due to winter ice storms, severe summer thunderstorms, and various insects and diseases. Our community badly is in need of new trees, advice and funding for the proper maintenance of our existing trees, and help with establishing a Community Tree Program.

Our overall goals are to: 1) Remove and/or prune existing trees with broken and decayed limbs. 2) Establish a Community Tree Board that would oversee all the tree plantings and tree maintenance projects on public land or right-of-ways in our community. 3) Plant new trees to replace those lost over the years due to the reasons explained above.

Below you will find a detailed description of our project / grant proposal.

1) Remove and/or prune existing trees with broken and decayed limbs.

We have requested a bid from Joe's Tree Service, an ISA certified tree care company, for the pruning of dead and broken limbs and the removal of dead or hazard street and park trees (see attached bid). The total cost for Joe's Tree Service is \$5000. We have applied for the maximum (\$2500) under the "Existing Tree Care & Maintenance" section of the challenge grant. The remaining cost of \$2500 will meet the requirement for the 50/50 hard cash match.

2) Establish a Community Tree Board.

Our Community Tree Board will consist of members from our parks and recreation board and our city finance officer. The goal of our Community Tree Board will be to establish city tree ordinances, to establish a community spending amount of \$2 minimum per capita for the purchase of new trees and tree care, to provide our City Parks employees with the opportunity to attend various training sessions geared towards proper tree planting and maintenance, and to oversee all of the public tree planting and tree maintenance projects to ensure their sustainability. The board will also work in partnership with our public schools to hold an annual Arbor Day function and ceremonial tree planting. A portion of our funding will be used to cover travel expenses for those community leaders, Board members, and City Parks employees who choose to attend training seminars, including those sponsored by South Dakota's Division of Resource Conservation and Forestry (RC&F). We will use the hourly wages of our city employees who attend the seminars to match the \$1500 grant.

3) Plant Replacement (New) Trees.

Over the past three years our community has lost many trees due to severe weather and Dutch Elm Disease. Our goal is to replace the trees lost with a wide variety of tree species. We have consulted your Urban Forester, Craig Brown, as to what would be suitable to plant. He provided us with a list of trees that would be appropriate for our community in addition to a general planting plan (see attached

list and plan). We will be purchasing the trees from the Tree Lovers Nursery, located in Arbortown, SD (see attached tree estimate). The total bill for the purchasing of these new trees will be \$1500. We understand that this grant will only fund up to \$1000 for the purchasing of new trees. Therefore, the remaining \$500 will be donated by a private contributor. In order to meet the 50/50 match requirement as specified within the grant criteria, we plan on spending \$250 on mulch and using local high school volunteers (labor) to complete the plantings. Together, this will equal or exceed the final \$500 needed to fulfill the match requirements. The 10th grade biology class has volunteered to help plant the trees. Doing so, will provide them with a valuable opportunity to learn and apply their knowledge of tree biology, with guidance from Craig Brown. We plan to incorporate this planting with our Arbor Day function.

As you can see, we have completed every step, as outlined in the guidelines set in the RC&F U&CF Challenge Grant Criteria document. We have been in contact with Chris Johnson, the Urban & Community Forestry Coordinator concerning the grant criteria and what options would be best for our community. We have also met with Craig Brown, our Urban Forester, who helped us put the application together and who has approved this project. We believe this is a much needed project for our community, and we will welcome any financial assistance provided by RC&F. We thank you for this opportunity to apply for this U&CF Comprehensive Challenge Grant. This money will help our community move forward in an attempt to become more responsible and proactive concerning our community tree resources. The grant will enable us to complete the proposed projects, thereby improving the aesthetics and safety of our community while giving our high school students and citizens an added reason to be proud of their community.