

January 17, 2013

Dear First Downs for Trees Partner:

First Downs for Trees is approaching its third planting season and we are excited to be able to increase the number of trees available through a second grant from *Great Lakes Restoration Initiative*. Funds from this grant will be applied during the 2013 and 2014 spring planting seasons.

Building on the success of the first GLRI grant, this grant focuses on two additional outcomes:

- Strategic tree planting impacting storm water
- Development of the FDfT playbook

In support of the first outcome, we ask you to consider and look for planting sites that will have the greatest impact on improving your communities' storm water challenges. Where best can trees be planted to increase storm water infiltration and reduce storm water runoff? These strategic plantings could be as simple as planting trees in a filter strip adjacent to a large parking lot or as elaborate as the construction of a bioretention landscape feature.

All of Wisconsin loves the Packers. In addition to improving storm water, consider how you can leverage your Packer trees to demonstrate the value of the urban forest and to gain partners and strengthen funding support.

Consider leveraging your Packer trees to promote your community forestry program with other city staff. This could be an opportunity to engage in conversations and planning efforts with those in the community responsible for storm water issues which is often your Public Works Director. They could have suggestions regarding locations where tree planting could assist in the communities' overall storm water plan. And don't forget to share the tree benefit fact sheets which Kimberly Miller developed with any conversation. They are an attention grabber.

A partnership with your communities' storm water folks could eventually lead to funding support which is what is taking place in Milwaukee. According to David Sivyer, the local storm water utility is covering a significant portion of the City's urban forestry budget due to the recognized connection and value trees have in relation to storm water.

Enclosed is an urban watershed forestry fact sheet which highlights the types of locations which should be considered for greatest impact. For additional information access the *USDA – Forest Service Urban Watershed Forestry Manual* available at <http://www.na.fs.fed.us/watershed/publications.shtm>. I have also included a link to an aerial view of your community where you can easily identify areas low with vegetation.

If you have questions or comments, please don't hesitate calling either Tracy or myself. If you are considering a more detailed planting project which could benefit from additional support, be sure to let us know so we can be on the look-out for additional funding/partners.

Thanks for all your efforts to move Wisconsin's urban forestry canopy forward!

Laura Wyatt

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