



Middle school students from Sumner-Fredericksburg planted street trees, and mulched existing trees in Fredericksburg in 2018.

# Power of Trees

*A community tree-planting program offered by Black Hills Energy and Trees Forever*

Power of Trees is a partnership of Black Hills Energy, Trees Forever and your community to fund tree plantings that save energy, beautify your community and enhance the environment. It is offered to Iowa communities served by Black Hills Energy.

Trees can be planted on both public and private property, but to qualify, the project must relate to energy efficiency. Projects include trees planted in the public right of way between streets and buildings, schools and public buildings.

Black Hills Energy provides grants of up to \$5,000 per community for community-based tree-planting projects. Trees Forever administers the program and provides staff to help community leaders and volunteers plan and complete successful long-lasting projects.

## Grant Application Timeline

Planting Season	Application Deadline	Grants Announced	Funding Awarded
Spring/ Fall	November 1	February	April

## Application requirements

- Eligible Communities** – Community is in Iowa and served by Black Hills Energy.
- Deadline** – Completed application form submitted (postmarked) by **November 1** for spring and fall plantings of the next year. Applications must be complete.
- Volunteer Involvement** – Projects should involve volunteers. If your community does not have an active tree group, please form an advisory committee that will help you plan your project.
- Maximum Tree Size** – To accommodate volunteers of all ages and abilities, trees should be no larger than **1.5" caliper or 10-gallon container (shade trees) or 4' or 10-gallon container (evergreens)**. (No seedlings, saplings, shrubs, mulch, labor or other planting costs.)
- Recommended Species** – Select species from the recommended species list (found at [www.treesforever.org/Power\\_of\\_Trees](http://www.treesforever.org/Power_of_Trees)). If you would like to plant something not on the list, please talk with a Trees Forever field coordinator and document that conversation as part of your application.
- Residential** – Projects proposing residential trees must follow the guidelines found at (residential tree brochure) [www.treesforever.org/Power\\_of\\_Trees](http://www.treesforever.org/Power_of_Trees).
- Reporting** – For past participating communities, completed reporting form submitted by **November 1**.

# Application Form- Power of Trees

Date \_\_\_\_\_ Grant Amount Requested \_\_\_\_\_

Community \_\_\_\_\_ County \_\_\_\_\_ Population \_\_\_\_\_

Organization/Committee Name (if applicable) \_\_\_\_\_

Primary Contact \_\_\_\_\_ Occupation \_\_\_\_\_

Address:  Home  Business \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone :  Home  Work  Cell \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

Community's Natural Gas Provider \_\_\_\_\_ Community's Electric Provider \_\_\_\_\_

Does Black Hills Energy serve natural gas to this project site? Yes No

List a minimum of four other committee or community members, who will assist with planning, planting and caring for your trees:

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Occupation \_\_\_\_\_ Address:  Home  Business \_\_\_\_\_ Phone:  Home  Work  Cell \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Occupation \_\_\_\_\_ Address:  Home  Business \_\_\_\_\_ Phone:  Home  Work  Cell \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Occupation \_\_\_\_\_ Address:  Home  Business \_\_\_\_\_ Phone:  Home  Work  Cell \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Occupation \_\_\_\_\_ Address:  Home  Business \_\_\_\_\_ Phone:  Home  Work  Cell \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

If awarded, the check should be made out to \_\_\_\_\_

Federal Tax ID Number \_\_\_\_\_

Anticipated Tree-planting Event Date \_\_\_\_\_

Local Media Contact \_\_\_\_\_  
Name, Business (Name of publication, radio station call letters, etc.)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Phone and Email

I give permission to Black Hills Energy and Trees Forever to reproduce and use any photographs taken at my community tree-planting event and/or that are submitted as part of our program summary report. I agree to care for our trees for no fewer than three years.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

## Questions?

Please call the Marion Trees Forever office at 1-800-369-1269, ext. 110 or 319-373-0650; fax 319-373-0528; or send email to [droman@treesforever.org](mailto:droman@treesforever.org)

# Application Form - Narrative Section

**1. Project Description** – Please describe your tree-planting project to someone who has never been to your community, including how volunteers will be engaged in planting. How will it benefit the community? Will the project benefit underserved or low-income residents?

**2. Energy Efficiency Benefits** – Each project must demonstrate how trees planted provide energy-efficiency benefits. Trees help moderate our extreme seasons. In the summer they shade streets and buildings. In the winter, they help break up and redirect cold winter winds, keeping buildings warmer inside. How will your project capitalize on the energy-efficiency benefits of trees, especially near buildings?

**3. Care and Maintenance** – Newly planted trees require a significant amount of care to get established. Describe your tree care plan for the first two years, which should include watering, mulching, pruning and possibly staking. Also list who is responsible for maintenance.

**4. Education and Advocacy** – How will you provide education about the planting, care and benefits of trees to members of your community (including energy-efficiency benefits)? Trees Forever field coordinators will work with you to choose the right tree species and provide your community with coaching and educational resources..

**5. Volunteer Involvement and Community Awareness** – Explain how volunteers will be involved in this project. Tell us how the volunteers who you identified in the committee list provide a broad representation of your community. How will you promote your tree planting within your area? Will local media and elected officials be invited to attend? How will you recognize program partners, Black Hills Energy and Trees Forever? Trees Forever field coordinators are happy to help and/or attend your plantings. Please provide a planting date and related logistics well in advance.

**6. Diversity** – Many Iowa communities have an overabundance of maples, crab apples and ash trees, leaving them susceptible to devastation by future insect and/or pest threats. Due to the threat of emerald ash borer (EAB), no ash trees will be funded. What species and how many of each species will you plant? Please describe how you are addressing tree diversity either within your project, or how your project diversifies your community's overall tree makeup. Does your community have an inventory of trees? And if so, how does it factor in to your species selection?

**7. Aerial Map and Site Plan** – Please include an aerial map of your community and highlight area(s) of town where you plan to plant. In addition, please provide a site plan sketch showing species and location for each tree planted. This may be a simple hand drawing, and should include major roads, overhead power lines and a north directional arrow. Maximum size of site plan sketch is 8.5 x 11.

**8. Budget Worksheet** – Please complete the worksheet on page four. Showing some match (cash or in-kind) is strongly recommended and will strengthen your application; however, matching funds are not required. You are strongly encouraged to get two estimates from nurseries in your area as you plan your project. Keep in mind that many nurseries are willing to discuss discounts for volunteer-led community projects. This can be considered an in-kind donation and can be recorded as part of the matching funds shown on the budget page. *Power of Trees* funds can only be used for trees. Funds cannot be used for seedlings, saplings, shrubs, mulch and planting costs. View a sample budget at: [www.treesforever.org/Power\\_of\\_Trees](http://www.treesforever.org/Power_of_Trees).

**9. Other Supporting Materials (Optional)** – Letters of support from community members, verification of other funding, photos, etc.

*Trees Forever staff are available before the deadline to help you develop a project and complete an application. Please contact Deb at 1-800-369-1269, ext. 110 or [droman@treesforever.org](mailto:droman@treesforever.org) to be connected with a Trees Forever staff person.*

## To submit an application

**Email** completed application and supporting documentation to [droman@treesforever.org](mailto:droman@treesforever.org). **(OR)**

**Mail to:** Trees Forever, Attn: Deb, 80 W 8th Ave., Marion, IA, 52302.



# Budget Worksheet for Community Tree Planting Applications 2020

Community: \_\_\_\_\_

## Trees

Quantity	Species	Tree Site Location	Size*	Cost/tree	Total Cost

\_\_\_\_\_ Total number of trees

## Budget

Total cost of trees \_\_\_\_\_

\*Trees should be no larger than 1.5 inch caliper or 10 gal. container (shade trees) or 4' or 10 gal. container (evergreens).

No seedlings, saplings, shrubs, mulch, labor or other planting costs.

Requested funds for trees \_\_\_\_\_

## Matching Funds \*\*

Item	Value/Cost

Total Matching Funds \_\_\_\_\_

\*\*Showing some match (cash or in-kind) is strongly encouraged and will strengthen your application.