

## Derecho Community Forestry Grant Program Final Report – Spring and Fall 2024



*Figure 1. Youth volunteers with Jackson County Conservation Board assisting in a planting demonstration lead by DNR Urban and Community Forestry Technician, Laurie Dams.*

## Grant Overview & Requirements

Iowa State Legislature allocated \$250,000 from Rebuilding Iowa’s Infrastructure Funds towards replanting trees lost in the derecho of 2020 to be spent within three years. Funds were in alignment with state code: Natural Resource Commission [571] Chapter 34 Community Forestry Grant Program. Per state code, applicants within the 27-county disaster proclamation area were required to submit a 6-page application as well as a map of the planting site and a quote from a nursery/firm. Spring 2024, state code also required a dollar for dollar match up to \$5,000 from the state and equal or greater from the applicant. Beginning in Fall 2024, state code allowed application ranging from \$500 to \$10,000, requiring no local match. A single applicant could submit more than one application.

Applications were made available December 4, and accepted until March 1, 2024. Per state code, a team of DNR Forestry staff reviewed and scored each application. Award recipients were announced on March 22, 2024 and approximately \$97,191.53 was allocated using Derecho funds. An additional \$5,283.88 was awarded, and paid from residual SUFR funds. In Fall of 2024, an additional round of applications was accepted to allocate \$159,756.96 of unspent funding. Fall award recipients were announced on September 6, 2024.



Figure 2. Map of Governor’s Disaster Proclamation for Severe Weather on August 10, 2020

Eligible counties include: Audubon, Benton, Boone, Cass, Cedar, Clarke, Clinton, Dallas, Greene, Grundy, Guthrie, Hardin, Iowa, Jackson, Jasper, Johnson, Jones, Linn, Madison, Marshall, Muscatine, Polk, Poweshiek, Scott, Story, Tama, and Washington counties.

## Award Recipients:

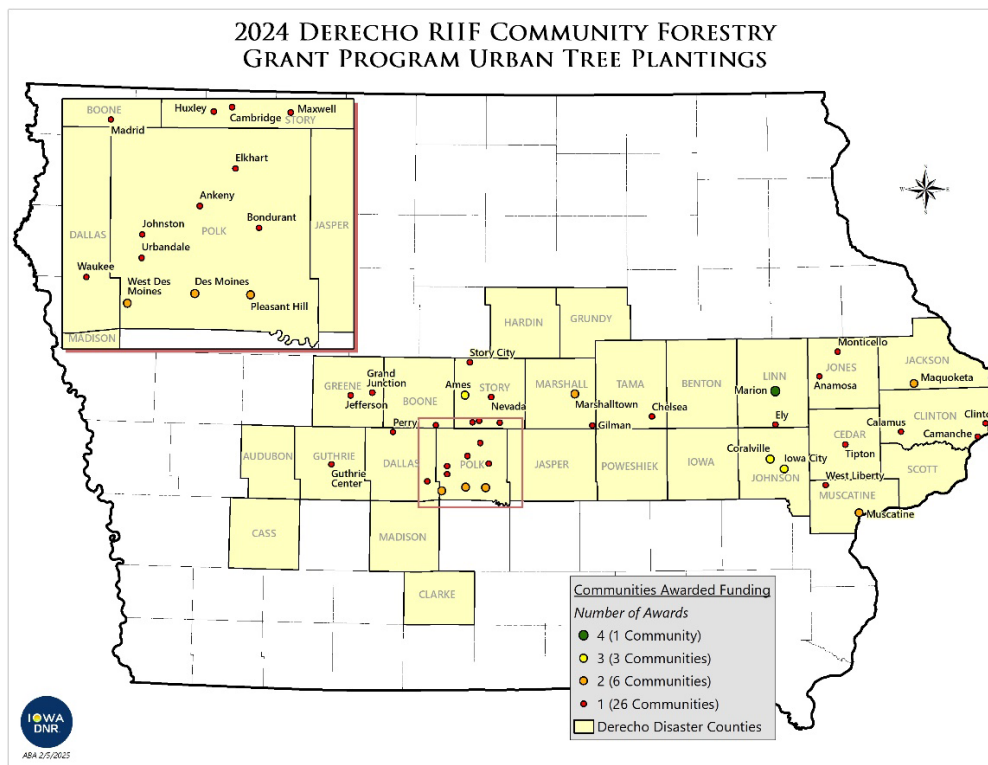


Figure 3. Map of locations awarded Derecho Community Forestry Grants Spring and Fall of 2024

## Grant Outcomes:

A total of 51 projects were awarded, reaching 15 of the 27 derecho disaster counties. Some communities were awarded multiple grants resulting in 41 communities receiving trees. In total 2,269 trees were planted helping to restore canopy lost in the 2020 derecho and increase canopy diversity. DNR Forestry Section and DNR Wildlife Bureau staff participated in or inspected each of the 51 projects.

“The Iowa DNR CFGP is a vital opportunity for our community to double our tree planting efforts in response to the 2020 Derecho and the ongoing EAB infestation. We are losing public and private trees quickly given the current situation and it’s important that we do what we can to keep up with new plantings. These additional funds allow us to increase the number of trees planted across Ames while not further stretching our budget. Plus, we have the support of the Iowa DNR and their vast knowledge to assist with the program. I am able to target neighborhoods that have experienced a significant amount of tree loss in recent years and plant twice as many trees as I would normally be able to plant. We know that this isn't a direct replacement of the older, mature trees, but this gives neighborhoods and residents hope for the future rather than bitter memories of the past. This grant program has had an immense impact on our community and we're grateful for the continued financial commitment of the program by the Governor and the state legislature. Thank you!” - Gabbi Edwards, City Forester for the City of Ames.

<b>Applicant</b>	<b>Round</b>	<b>Trees</b>	<b>Grant Award</b>	<b>Volunteer Hours</b>
City of Ames	Spring 2024	50	\$5,000.00	63
City of Ames	Fall 2024	45	\$10,000.00	25
City of Ankeny	Spring 2024	39	\$4,950.00	0
City of Bondurant	Spring 2024	25	\$4,637.50	0
City of Calamus	Fall 2024	45	\$9,993.30	60
City of Cambridge	Fall 2024	20	\$4,833.24	120
City of Chelsea	Fall 2024	20	\$5,914.17	45
City of Clinton	Spring 2024	28	\$2,790.00	93
City of Coralville	Spring 2024	54	\$4,860.80	0
City of Coralville (1&2)	Fall 2024	110	\$20,000.00	0
City of Des Moines	Spring 2024	36	\$4,915.00	50
City of Elkhart	Fall 2024	18	\$4,000.00	15
City of Ely	Spring 2024	15	\$625.00	23
City of Grand Junction Lions Club	Spring 2024	18	\$1,506.00	56
City of Huxley - Tree Board	Spring 2024	18	\$980.00	50
City of Iowa City	Spring 2024	51	\$5,000.00	28
City of Iowa City	Fall 2024	58	\$10,000.00	100
City of Jefferson - Tree Committee	Spring 2024	98	\$4,950.00	276
City of Johnston	Spring 2024	77	\$5,000.00	22
City of Madrid	Spring 2024	6	\$2,850.00	0
City of Maquoketa Tree Board	Fall 2024	48	\$9,914.30	21
City of Marion	Spring 2024	60	\$4,990.00	4
City of Marion - Tree Board	Fall 2024	132	\$10,000.00	0
City of Marshalltown - Trees Forever	Spring 2024	19	\$1,420.00	27
City of Marshalltown - Trees Forever	Fall 2024	20	\$3,990.00	34
City of Maxwell	Spring 2024	15	\$2,162.25	75
City of Monticello	Fall 2024	84	\$9,885.00	60
City of Muscatine	Spring 2024	11	\$2,000.00	20
City of Nevada	Spring 2024	47	\$4,806.87	40
City of Pleasant Hill	Spring 2024	48	\$4,999.32	15
City of Pleasant Hill	Fall 2024	50	\$10,000.00	8
City of Story City	Spring 2024	30	\$2,463.35	100
City of Tipton	Fall 2024	53	\$9,930.00	183
City of Urbandale	Spring 2024	31	\$3,481.38	82
City of Waukee	Spring 2024	15	\$824.97	178
City of West Des Moines	Spring 2024	110	\$5,000.00	81

City of West Des Moines	Fall 2024	70	\$10,000.00	110
Clinton CCB	Spring 2024	31	\$3,582.22	0
Dallas CCB	Fall 2024	38	\$4,122.00	25.5
Guthrie County Agricultural Society	Spring 2024	23	\$1,886.50	54
Jackson CCB	Fall 2024	65	\$9,914.45	73
Jones County Courthouse	Spring 2024	10	\$792.50	0
Linn County Trails Association	Spring 2024	71	\$4,967.55	54
Marshall CCB	Fall 2024	136	\$7,260.50	264
Muscatine CCB	Spring 2024	16	\$1,213.50	48
Story CCB	Spring 2024	42	\$2,528.00	70
Trees Forever - Des Moines	Spring 2024	30	\$1,863.15	32
Trees Forever - Iowa City	Spring 2024	29	\$1,802.50	44
Trees Forever - Marion	Fall 2024	72	\$10,000.00	144
West Liberty High School	Spring 2024	32	\$3,627.05	222

*Table 1. Recipients of the Spring and Fall 2024 Derecho Community Forestry Grant, total trees planted, grant award amount and volunteers hours. Communities highlighted in blue indicate the use of SUFR EAB funds.*



Figure 4. Volunteers planting a tree during the Ames Community Forestry Grant Program planting event in Fall 2024.

## Additional Impacts:

### Nursery Outreach

Due to the dollar for dollar match requirement of the Spring 2024 Derecho CFGP, and the non-match Fall 2024, a total of \$390,203.46 went to nurseries, garden centers, and businesses.

“Country Landscapes has been a part of CFGP plantings for many years. We love helping with this, as it aligns with one of our goals, which is to plant quality native nursery stock in our area. We do this by employing local people to benefit local communities. It helps us promote the importance trees have in improving esthetics, providing shade, and helping communities recover after natural disasters. Our hope is that as community ties grow, citizens will see the benefits of trees in common areas and pursue planting trees in their private yards.”-Ben Hershey, ISA Certified Arborist with Country Landscapes.

**New Communities Reached in 2024:**

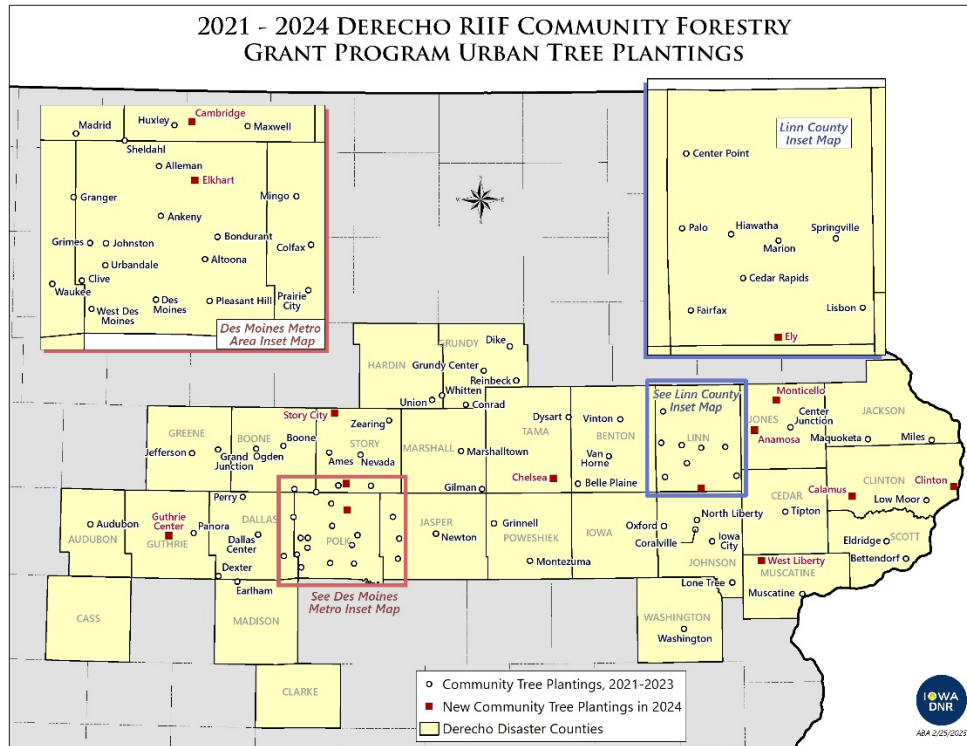


Figure 5. Map of new locations awarded Derecho Community Forestry Grants Spring and Fall of 2024.

In 2024, legislature adjusted the requirement for the Derecho Community Forestry Grant Program, no longer requiring equal contribution by grant recipients. By dismissing this financial limit, we anticipated an increase in new recipients that had previously been limited financially. In Spring 2024, when the Derecho CFGP required equal match, 19% of the 32 grant recipients were communities that we had not worked with before. Comparatively, in Fall 2024, when equal match was no longer required, 32% of the 19 grant recipients were new communities.