

**PROGRESS REPORT**  
**FOREST SERVICE GRANT / AGREEMENT**  
**NO 15-DG-11132544-036**

Period covered by this report: 07/01/2017 - 12/31/2017

**Issued to:** USDA, Forest Service State & Private Forestry, Cooperative Forestry

**Address:** 1400 Independence Ave. SW, Washington, D.C. 20078-5500

**Project Name:** Integrating Trees into Stormwater Management Design and Policy

**Contact Person/Principal Investigator**

**Name:** Travis Miller

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**Web Site Address (if applicable):** [www.treesandstormwater.org](http://www.treesandstormwater.org)

**Date of Award:** 08/20/2015

**Grant Modifications:** Modification 001 approved June 20 to extend expiration from 6/30/17 to 12/31/17

**Date of Expiration:** 12/31/2017

**Funding: Federal Share:** \$196,270 plus **Grantee Share:** \$196,270 = **Total Project:** \$392,540

**Budget Sheet:** \$401,599.46 (102.3%) expended

**Federal Share:** \$196,264.75 **Grantee Share:** \$205,334.71

**FS Grant Manager:** Phillip Rodbell

**Address:** 11 Campus Blvd, Newtown Square, PA 19073

**Phone Number:** (610) 577-4133

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**Project abstract (as defined by initial proposal and contract):**

Integrating Trees Into Stormwater Management Design and Policy – A Guide for Local Decision Makers will be a valuable resource for promoting, facilitating and increasing the use of trees for stormwater management. In spite of the proven value of trees for reducing stormwater flows and pollutants, there is widespread lack of understanding, acceptance, and credibility of their use for managing stormwater. The Guide will overcome these barriers by providing a practical tool that informs local governments of options and best practices for including trees in stormwater facility design regulations and

policies.

OKI and its team of national partners will develop a guide that is applicable across the nation. OKI will identify the most practical solutions based on perspectives of local government in its tri-state region. Davey Resource Group will draw upon its vast knowledge and understanding of forests and green infrastructure to ensure that the Guide is scientifically sound and feasible. Centerline Strategy, LLC will compile a national inventory of local government policies and incentives for integrating trees into stormwater management solutions. NARC will work with OKI and its other members to ensure the Guide's applicability to other regions, with particular interest to ensure applicability for arid and tropical climates, and to promote it through NARC's national membership.

**Project objectives:**

- **Phase I: Project Initiation and Management**
  - 1.1 Establish contracts and reporting requirements
  - 1.2 Finalize Workplan
  - 1.3 Create Advisory Committee
- **Phase II: Research & Guide Composition**
  - 2.1 Completion of national inventory of local government policy and incentives for tree integration in stormwater management solutions
  - 2.2 Development of Decision Matrix
  - 2.3 Focus groups to vet findings and refine Matrix
  - 2.4 Development of first draft of Guide, Draft Design Templates, Draft Ordinance Templates
  - 2.5 Solicit strategic feedback to refine Guide and develop supporting materials, ensure the relevance and replicability of the Guide on a local, regional and national basis
  - 2.6 Development of supporting materials and media, Education video production, Webinar Series development (slides, scripts)
  - 2.7 Complete Final Guide, Produce Final Design Templates, Final Ordinance Templates
- **Phase III: Outreach, Technology Transfer & Professional Development**
  - 3.1 Outreach and dissemination of final products, Conduct Webinar Series, Launch online Guide, Present at two or more national conference sessions

**Objectives met successfully to-date:**

1.1, 1.2, 1.3, 2.1, 2.2, 2.3, 2.4, 2.5, 2.6, 2.7, 3.1

**Additional objectives in progress:**

All completed.

**Objectives not yet met:**

All met.

**How will this project increase the knowledge we have about urban forestry? How will the public benefit?**

- This project will increase knowledge regarding best practices for implementing design and policy at a local level that increases the use of trees in stormwater design applications.
- The public will benefit by enjoying increased urban tree canopy in locations historically void of trees.

**How will the results be disseminated to the public?**

The final product is available online and available to anyone with internet access. Project partners will continue to promote the existence and use of the final product to local government organizations nationwide through 2018.

**Has the project met the projected timeline of accomplishments? Is the project on schedule? Is the project ahead of schedule? Is the project behind schedule? If a no-cost time extension has been requested for this project, why is (was) it needed?**

The project was completed on schedule. On June 20, 2017, Modification 001 allowing a no-cost time extension was approved extending the grant period to December 31, 2017. This extension allowed the project team additional time to devote to the promotion of the Guide through a series of national webinars during the fall and early winter season.

**List the active partners (key individuals or organizations) involved in the project to-date:**

- OKI Regional Council of Governments and its Environmental Justice Committee  
Travis Miller; David Rutter; Brad Mason; Katie Hannum; Florence Parker; Karen Whitaker
- Davey Resource Group  
Jenny Gulick; Rachel Comte
- Centerline Strategy, LLC  
Larry Wiseman; Courtney Kimmel
- National Association of Regional Councils  
Cameron Herbolzheimer; Anna Rosenbaum

**Comments considered of importance but not covered above:**

The final product deliverables are available online, either housed at a specific location within the online Guide or on a stakeholder or partner organizational website. Links to all products are provided below:

**The Guide:** [www.treesandstormwater.org](http://www.treesandstormwater.org)

**Design templates:** <http://treesandstormwater.org/plan-it/>  
<http://treesandstormwater.org/design-specifications/>  
<http://treesandstormwater.org/tree-planting/>  
<http://treesandstormwater.org/stormwater-modeling/>  
<http://treesandstormwater.org/resource-library/> (see project design category)

**Policy/Ordinance templates:** <http://treesandstormwater.org/policies/>  
<http://treesandstormwater.org/resource-library/> (see public policies category)

**Educational video (Overview):**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nleY08t4cUA&feature=youtu.be>

**Video Series:**

<http://treesandstormwater.org/> videos are beneath heading “What pros are saying”

**Webinars:**

Tools for Trees: Better Stormwater Management and Livability

September 13, 2017 – Host: NRPA

Attended: 239

[https://learning.nrpa.org/products/tools-for-trees-better-stormwater-management-and-livability#tab-product\\_tab\\_overview](https://learning.nrpa.org/products/tools-for-trees-better-stormwater-management-and-livability#tab-product_tab_overview)

Trees, Stormwater & Resiliency: An Opportunity for Local Communities

September 20, 2017 – Hosts: NARC and NADO

Attended: 32

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=spEs0RbXIvE>

Integrating Trees into Stormwater Management Design and Policy

October 11, 2017 – Host: US Forest Service, Urban Forest Connections Webinar

Attended: 185

<https://www.fs.fed.us/research/urban-webinars/integrating-trees/>

Trees and Stormwater: A Tool for Your Community

November 9, 2017 – Host: APA and NARC

Attended: 213

<https://www.planning.org/events/eventsingle/9137908/>

Trees and Stormwater: A Tool for Your Community

December 14, 2017 – Host WEF-NMSA

Attended: 320

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IVx9VIyqe1c>

**Case Studies:**

<http://treesandstormwater.org/resource-library/> (see case studies category)

**Web presence:**

- At report date, [www.treesandstormwater.org](http://www.treesandstormwater.org) has had 12,746 views.
- Day of highest views occurred Feb 15, 2018 with 795 views.
- Month with highest views occurred November 2017 with 2,807 views.
- Per day in 2017, averaged 83 views.
- Per day in 2018, averaging 60 views.
- 320 registered users

**Matrix of Funding Options:**

<http://treesandstormwater.org/funding/>

[http://treesandstormwater.org/resource-library/?sf\\_s=funding](http://treesandstormwater.org/resource-library/?sf_s=funding)

<http://treesandstormwater.org/roi/>

**Conference Exhibit:**

New Partners for Smart Growth Conference – 2017, St. Louis, Missouri  
Seeing Trees Differently: Strategies, Tools, & Technology for Greening  
Infrastructure

<https://www.newpartners.org/2017/session-by-time/>

National Association of Regional Councils Annual Conference & Exhibition  
June 2017, Monterey, California

Tools to Help You Plan for a Sustainable and Resilient Community

<http://narc.org/about-narc/conferences/annual-conference-and-exhibition/2017ac/>

National Stormwater Solutions Conference – November 2017, Tinley Park,  
Illinois

Trees and Stormwater: A Guide for Local Decision Makers

<https://tinkerscreek.org/event/2017-storm-water-solutions-conference-exhibition/>

**Hard copy format available and distributed:**

2500 Postcards were published for distribution by project partners at various conferences and workshops. Partners continue to distribute postcards at report date and expect supplies to fulfill distribution needs through 2018.

**Lessons Learned:**

- Developing the ‘Document Builder’ functionality into the Guide proved to be more complex than originally contemplated. No ‘off the shelf’ programs existed to accomplish what was envisioned by our team. OKI adjusted the project budget and revised its sub award agreement with NARC in order to enable NARC to contract with a vendor specializing in creating such tools. A vendor was selected and contracted to perform the work was completed in September 2017.

**Next Steps:**

- Partners will continue to convene on a quarterly schedule through 2018 to discuss [www.treesandstormwater.org](http://www.treesandstormwater.org) use activity and make updates as necessary to the site’s content.
- Partners will continue to promote the Guide at professional conferences nationally as able through 2018.

**This report was prepared by:**

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**Date:** March 2, 2018