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10-DK-11420004-004

58-RB-BP008.

**U.S Forest Service: Urban and Community Forestry Program
NUCFAC 2009 Challenge Cost Share Grant**

Application Cover Sheet

Proposals are due by 11:59 PM Eastern Standard Time February 17, 2009

INNOVATION GRANT CATEGORY: (Total amount available is \$500,000) (Select only one per application)

- ENERGY AND URBAN FORESTS CLIMATE
- CHANGE AND URBAN FORESTS PUBLIC
- HEALTH AND URBAN FORESTS

BEST PRACTICES GRANTS. (Maximum amount per application is \$50,000 of a total amount available of \$500,000)

PROJECT CONTACT: Jerri J. LaHaie

NAME OF ORGANIZATION: Society of Municipal Arborists

MAILING ADDRESS: 1200 Simonton Dr.

MAILING ADDRESS 2:

CITY: Watkinsville STATE: GA ZIP CODE: 30677

PHONE NO. 706-769-7412 CELL PHONE (OPTIONAL) 706-340-1038

FAX NO. 706-769-7307

E-MAIL urbanforestry@prodigy.net

Is this project being developed to reach a minority or underserved population? Yes No

Is this pre-proposal being submitted by a minority or underserved population (owned/operated/directed) business, organization or college/university? Yes No

PROJECT TITLE : Best Management Practices for Integrating Urban Forestry into Environmental Planning

A 50 percent match is required of non Federal, cash, donated materials and/or volunteer time.

REQUESTED: \$ 50,000	+ MATCHING: \$ 50,000	TOTAL PROJECT:
		\$100,000

PARTNERS:

NAME Bill Tucker, President LETTER OF SUPPORT INCLUDED: YES NO
NAME OF ORGANIZATION: Alabama Association of Regional Councils (AARC)

MAILING ADDRESS 1: 5900 Carmichael Place

MAILING ADDRESS 2:

CITY: Montgomery STATE: AL ZIP CODE: 36117

PHONE NO. 334-277-2221 CELL PHONE (OPTIONAL)

FAX NO: 334-277-3899

E-MAIL btucker@carpdc.com

NAME Bill Tucker, Executive Director | LETTER OF SUPPORT INCLUDED: YES NO NAME OF
ORGANIZATION: Central Alabama Regional Planning and Development Commission

MAILING ADDRESS 1: 430 S. Court St

MAILING ADDRESS 2:

CITY: Montgomery STATE AL ZIP CODE: 36104

PHONE NO. 334-262-3400 CELL PHONE (OPTIONAL)

FAX NO: 334-262-6976

E-MAIL btucker@carpdc.com

NAME _____ LETTER OF SUPPORT INCLUDED: YES NO
NAME OF ORGANIZATION: _____

MAILING ADDRESS 1: MAILING

ADDRESS 2:

CITY: STATE: ZIPCODE:

PHONE NO. CELL PHONE (OPTIONAL)

FAX NO.

PROPOSAL OUTLINE: (The Innovation proposal is not to be more than 10 and the Best Practices is not to be more than 5 single spaced pages.) Please make sure each page is numbered and has the project title.

Project Title: Best Management Practices for Integrating Urban Forestry into Environmental Planning

ABSTRACT: Summarize the proposed project in 200 words or less.

The Society of Municipal Arborists (SMA), in cooperation with the Alabama Association of Regional Councils (AARC), will develop best management practices for integrating urban forestry into environmental planning. The urban forestry profession has been successful in creating sound best management practices which have been widely accepted and utilized by practicing urban forestry professionals, but which have not been adapted for use by allied professionals. Regional planning commissions in Alabama, who are a "service arm" of local governments, have integrated environmental planning into many of their twelve regional planning districts, but do not have the tools to integrate urban forestry into the environmental planning they do with communities, such as community-required comprehensive plans and state-required pre-hazard mitigation plans. This project will adapt urban forestry best practices for use by regional planners, by bringing together professional urban foresters, regional planners, members of state agencies and others to develop best practices as a tool for integrating urban forestry in regional planning at the local level, but which can be replicated nationally.

1. **Scope and Applicability/Justification- Proposal objectives:**
2. **Literature Review: (discussion)**
3. **Organization/Methodology:**
4. **Product:**
5. **Collaboration:**
6. **National Distribution/Technology Transfer of Your Findings:**
7. **Project Evaluation:**
8. **Experience/Personnel/Adequacy of Resources:**
9. **Project Evaluation:**

Attachments:

SF 424 and SF 424 (a). (Make sure DUNS number is on SF424 form) Copy of indirect cost rate or negotiated rate with cognizant Federal agency List of Literature reviewed and cited Letters of Support from Partners

When uploading this form to grants.gov, please upload your narrative as a PDF or Word document. Remember that Best Practices proposals should be no more than 5 pages long, and Innovation proposals should be no more than 10 pages long.

1. Scope and Applicability/Justification: With the growing recognition of the value of urban forestry in environmental planning, there is significant effort among urban forestry professionals to implement effective tree care programs in the communities they serve. In many communities, this responsibility falls to regional planners. Unfortunately, a common refrain among urban foresters and regional planners is that they talk past each other, or are simply not aware of one another. This project intends to bridge the communication gap between urban foresters and regional planners by creating a series of best management practices (BMP's) and conducting educational sessions on urban forestry in environmental planning. SMA will build upon their success in creating best practices for public works professionals by replicating this process/product (NUCFAC 2007 SMA/APWA/DAVEY grant) with regional planners. In order to effectively communicate to regional planners and the communities they serve, it is important to "speak their language," which this project will accomplish by providing them with the best practices and latest science in urban forestry. The BMP's will also nurture networks of urban forestry practitioners within existing conservation organizations, professional societies, social networks and internet communities by providing links with available information and contacts to provide additional assistance on UF techniques. Uniting urban foresters and regional planners will promote sound environmental efforts within communities as they tackle issues such as water quality, soil erosion, watershed management, wetland protections, riparian buffer repair/mitigation/protection, air quality, hazard mitigation, aesthetic improvements, land use, etc., in community planning. It will create new advocates for urban forestry in both regional planners and the communities they serve. The objective of this project is to create BMP's for urban forestry in environmental planning in a short and easy to understand format, i.e., a tool not merely a resource. The target audience for this project is all communities, beginning with communities in Alabama, but then replicated and available for download to any community worldwide. Specific types of other national organizations who may benefit from this project include: National Association of Regional Councils, The US Conference of Mayors, Mayors' Climate Protection Center, ICLEI – Local governments for sustainability, American Society of Landscape Architects, Alabama Association of Regional Councils, Society of Municipal Arborists, American Public Works Association, American Planning Agency, Emergency Management Associations, non-profit tree groups. This project should be done now because communities are especially challenged for funding and will rely even more heavily upon regional planners for assistance. In order to integrate urban forestry into environmental planning, this type of tool is desperately needed by regional planners.

2. Literature Review: This project is unique in that it will reach a very specific, targeted audience, regional planners—an audience that has generally not been reached through the existing dissemination channels or previous outreach efforts. Regional planners' activities are directed in response to local needs, which may currently exist or be based on projected growth, changing lifestyles, and technological innovations. Fortunately, there is a huge body of research on a broad range of urban forestry topics, (see Appendix 1 for examples.) Likewise, NUCFAC has funded several projects that are relevant to this effort (listed in Appendix 1.) Our goal is to use existing materials and the most recent research and "repackage" it specifically for the regional planning audience. With a focus

on updated information and new technology, the proposed project will draw on and use, where relevant, all of the existing literature as it relates to developing urban forestry management tools for the regional planning audience. Examples of existing resources include:

- The Green Infrastructure Guide – *Planning for a Healthy Urban and Community Forest*. Regional Planning Partnership; 2001
- Planning the Urban Forest: Ecology, Economy and Community Development. American Planning Association, Planning Advisory Service Report Number 555, 2009
- Storms over the Urban Forest – *Planning, Responding, and Regreening – A Community Guide to Natural Disaster Relief*; Second Edition, 1994
- Urban Tree Risk Management: *A Community Guide to Program Design and Implementation*; 1992
- A Local Ordinance to Protect Wetland Functions; Office of Wetlands, Oceans and Watersheds U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Washington, DC: 2007
- Using Local Watershed Plans to Protect Wetlands; Office of Wetlands, Oceans and Watersheds U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Washington, DC: 2006
- Urban Watershed Forestry Manual; US Forest Service; Part I, Part II, and Part III, 2005
- University of Illinois at Urbana; various studies on social impacts and trees/environment
- “Talking Trees: Integrating Urban Forestry into Local Government’s Sustainability and Emissions Reduction Initiatives”
- “Communicating the Economic and Ecological Value of Urban and Community Forestry to Local Government Officials”

3. Organization/Methodology:

SMA will be responsible for implementation of the project. This will include recruiting members to serve on an advisory committee to develop the BMP’s, organizing a meeting with urban foresters and regional planners to develop the BMP’s, maintaining the project’s schedule, and completing all required programmatic reports. CARPDC will be responsible for recruiting regional planners to serve on an advisory committee to develop the BMP’s, conducting the literature review, creating a series of BMP’s, and surveying planners to assess usefulness of the BMP’s. The project will begin with a comprehensive literature review of urban forestry issues in environmental planning. It is expected the literature review will yield pertinent information about urban forestry in relation to regional planning efforts, as well as identify gaps in the existing body of literature. The findings of this review will be incorporated into the BMP series. The advisory group will provide oversight as necessary on the literature review. During the first six months, SMA and CARPDC will establish an advisory committee comprised of three urban forestry representatives and three regional planning representatives. Ideal candidates will be well known and highly regarded members of their profession and will have significant experience in environmental issues. Each organization will be responsible for recruiting from their respective memberships. The advisory committee will convene as necessary to help guide the work products and may serve as speakers at educational sessions to

promote the project/product. During these meetings, we will determine which urban forestry techniques are most useful to planners and local officials as they relate to environmental planning and focus on those. During the final six months, the final BMP's will be produced with findings from the literature review and the advisory committee. These BMP's will serve as a tool for regional planners to use in environmental planning with communities. All written materials will be reviewed by the project staff and the advisory committee. Once the BMP's have been produced, they will be disseminated via partner websites, and promoted through articles in both partner and allied professionals' membership materials, such as *City Trees*, *The CARPDC Chronicle*, and the Alabama Association of Regional Councils' Newsletter. At the end of the project, a survey will be conducted to assess both qualitative and quantitative usage by regional planners.

4. Product: A number of products will be developed through this project. Among the deliverables are a series of BMP's and training events outlined below:

BMP's

These documents will be created based on the findings from the literature review and from meetings with representatives from all four partner groups. They will be one to two pages in length and will be available for download at no cost from the partners' websites at www.urban-forestry.com, <http://www.carpdc.com>, www.alarc.org. Eventually, through outreach to NARC (The National Association of Regional Councils) by AARC, we hope to publish the BMP's on their website (<http://www.narc.org/>), effectively reaching every local government and planning commission in the United States.

Training

Training will be conducted through education sessions at conferences and workshops held by each of the partners, including the annual international SMA Conference and the AARC Annual Training Conference. AARC will reach out to NARC and discuss possible forums for training sessions nation wide.

5. Collaboration: This project will involve the collaboration of four main partners who, through their existing missions, memberships and relationships, have the ability to reach thousands of planners, urban foresters, state, county and local governments. The four partners include the Society of Municipal Arborists (SMA), Alabama Forestry Commission (AFC), Central Alabama Regional Planning and Development Commission (CARPDC), and Alabama Association of Regional Councils (AARC). In order to understand how their collaboration will work, it is relevant to understand the mission of each partner. SMA focuses on "increased resources and support for community forestry worldwide." The AFC "is committed to protecting and sustaining (Alabama's) forest resources using professionally applied stewardship principles and education. (AFC) will ensure Alabama's forests contribute to abundant timber and wildlife, clean air and water, and a healthy economy." CARPDC "studies regional problems of mutual interest to cities and counties with the objective of guiding the development of policy and making action recommendations to carry out programs and projects to benefit member governments." AARC focuses on "expanding and strengthening the capabilities of Regional Councils to serve local governments and the citizens of Alabama in partnership

with state government and the private and civic sector." Our collaborative efforts will involve SMA, AFC and the CARPDC Urban Forester discussing the base content of our Best Management Practices (BMP's), and then, through meetings with all four partners we will refine those BMP's into language and concepts that planners and local officials can easily understand. One question that we at CARPDC asked ourselves when developing this proposal is: "Why doesn't the American Planning Association (APA) already communicate these BMP's to their members?" The answer to that question is twofold: it costs money to join the APA, so the organization does not touch as many planners and local governments as it could; and, although the APA publishes documents on Urban Forestry Techniques, these documents are too voluminous for planners and local officials to have time to read, they cost money to purchase, and approximately 100 documents are published by the APA each year and no planner or local official has time to read each of them. One of the goals of our project is to create BMP's that are relatively short and easy to understand, as well as ones that are available to every planner and local official in America free of charge. These BMP's will be a tool, rather than a resource like APA materials; a roadmap rather than a travelogue.

6. National Distribution/Technology Transfer of Your Findings:

The BMP's will be posted to SMA's website, available to over 1400 SMA members, and to the general public. The BMP's and a summary of this grant project will be an educational session at the annual conference, reaching over 300 allied professionals, and will be featured in SMA's biannual magazine, *City Trees*, which is mailed to over 1400 SMA members and hundreds of public libraries, and is available to the general public on the SMA website. CAPRDC will liaise with AARC to disseminate the BMP's to every local government in Alabama. AARC, who is a member of the National Association of Regional Councils (NARC), will provide the BM's to the NARC and ask that they be made available to all of their member states and in turn each state's member governments, effectively reaching the entire nation. Currently, the CARPDC Director, Bill Tucker, is the President of the AARC, so CARPCD's ability to make the BMP's visible to the entire state is guaranteed. Our marketing strategy will involve placing ads in partner publications as well as on partner's websites. We will monitor the website hits of our partners prior to and after the BMP's are posted to try and quantify any additional traffic that may be attributable to the BMP's. A mailing/emailing campaign will also be undertaken by sending the BMP's to each member government in Alabama, and hopefully the nation, with expansion through the NARC. Contact information of project leads at each partner agency will be provided in the BMP. Each project lead will record the number of calls that they receive. We will also take ads out in professional journals that our target audience may read such as *The Journal of Planning Literature*, *The International Journal of Sustainable Development Planning*, *Journal of Planning Education and Research*, *Journal of Water Resources Planning and Management* and *the Journal of Arboriculture*. The ads will have a link to a partner's website where the BMP's can be downloaded. Key words: regional planning, environmental planning, urban forestry, best management practices, global warming, sustainable communities, going green, green communities.

7. Project Evaluation: The two primary outcomes of this project are 1) increase the awareness of urban forestry issues among regional planners and 2) provide regional planners with guidance on the best management practices of urban forestry in environmental planning. Assessing the first goal is best measured by quantifying the reach of AARC's and NARC's dissemination efforts. SMA will monitor the traffic on the webpage to assess downloads of the BMP's. The second outcome will be assessed by surveying regional planners to determine how they are using the BMP's in their environmental planning efforts with communities. Our project will increase the public's knowledge of the importance of urban and community forestry by highlighting how governments can achieve sustainable communities through Urban Forestry techniques. Pursuing these strategies will make governments eligible for a variety of grants that are to become available in the near future which promote sustainable communities and the fight against global warming. We will measure our success by tracking website hits and telephone calls to project leads at each partner agency and recording attendance numbers at each of our training sessions. We would also like to add a blog to our websites where interested professionals can discuss potential ideas and projects.

8. Experience/Personnel/Adequacy of Resources:

SMA is an international association of urban forest professionals dedicated to increasing resources and support for community forestry worldwide. The SMA website is increasingly becoming the go-to source for communities looking for tools for managing the urban forest. Jerri J. LaHaie, CAE, Executive Director, Society of Municipal Arborists. Jerri has served as the Executive Director of SMA since 2002. Prior to that, she was the Executive Director for a number of statewide associations, including the Alabama Urban Forestry Association and the Alabama Chapter of the American Society of Landscape Architects. Jerri has a BS degree in Social Sciences, 10 years work experience with the federal government, and holds certifications in both teaching and as a Certified Association Executive. Jerri has managed and participated in numerous urban forestry related grants, such as "Urban Forest Management and Public Works: Improving Communications and Building Capacity" and the "Municipal Forestry Institute" grant.

CARPDC "studies regional problems of mutual interest to cities and counties with the objective of guiding the development of policy and making action recommendations to carry out programs and projects to benefit member governments." Rachel Barker-- Rachel's extensive experience in the Urban Forestry profession includes Project Manager for Natural Resource Consulting, Inc. where she helps communities develop Urban Forestry Management Plans, such as Maintenance Plans, Tree Risk Management Plans and Emergency Storm Response Plans. Rachel is the former Deputy Director for Operations of Public Services and the Arborist and Manager of Urban Forestry for the city of Columbus GA, and the former City Horticulturist in Opelika, AL. She has a BS degree in Landscape and Ornamental Horticulture, and a Masters Degree in Public Administration. She is a certified arborist, a member of the American Public Works Association. Rachel has served as Past President of the Alabama Urban Forestry Association and as a board member of the Society of Municipal Arborists, having received that organization's President's Award in 2006.

MOU
Collaboration between Alabama Forestry Commission and
Alabama Association of Regional Councils

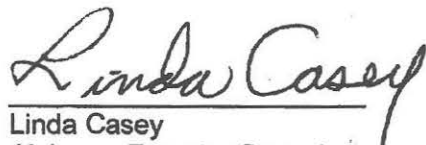
The Forestry Commission is committed to take the following steps:

1. Identify and assign 12 Forestry Commission employees to act as a liaison with each of the 12 AARC regional councils.
2. Coordinate with the AARC Planning Task Force to familiarize Forestry Commission liaisons and other key people on Green Infrastructure practices and the operations and services of the respective regional councils.
3. Work with AARC Regional Councils to present twenty (20) Wildland Urban Interface (WUI) workshops.
4. Help define role of Forestry Commission liaison with assigned regional planning council (i.e. green infrastructure, Economic Development Plans, watershed studies, Hazard Mitigation Plans, land use planning/development, comprehensive plans).
5. Help develop innovative ideas to incorporate green infrastructure concepts into regional planning council activities and programs.
6. State Forester will address the AARC annual training conference.

In order to complete this partnership, the AARC is asked to take the following steps:

1. AARC Planning Task Force will provide comments on Forestry commission proposal.
2. AARC Planning Task Force will present proposal for AARC Executive Committee approval.
3. AARC Executive will notify each regional planning council of new partnership.
4. AARC Planning Task Force will assist Forestry Commission in familiarizing agency liaisons and other key people on Green Infrastructure practices and the operations and services of the respective regional councils.
5. AARC Regional Councils will assist Forestry Commission in planning twenty (20) Wildland-Urban Interface (WUI) workshops by suggesting locations, providing mailing/contact lists, and suggesting program content.

Date: 2/13/09


Linda Casey
Alabama Forestry Commission
State Forester

Date: 2-11-09


Bill Tucker
Alabama Association Regional Councils
President

APPENDIX I: Annotated Literature Review

Booth, J.A. November 2005. Developing A Sustainable Community Strategy for Trees 1. Requirements of A Strategy. *Arboricultural Journal* 29:5-18.

*Trees are an important constituent of the urban habitat that are of increasing importance as sustainability and quality of life climb the political agenda. The needs of stakeholders: residents, central government and its agencies, councilors and council officers, need to be considered when drawing up a 'sustainable community strategy for trees'. It is put forward that the power and interest of residents, councilors, and council officers must be increased while that of the central government and its agencies must be reduced.

Dwyer, J.F., D.J. Nowak, and M.H. Noble. January 2003. Sustaining Urban Forests. *Journal of Arboriculture* 29(1): 49-55.

*The significance of the urban forest resource and the powerful forces for change in the urban environment make sustainability a critical issue in urban forest management. The diversity, connectedness, and dynamics of the urban forest establish the context for management that will determine the sustainability of forest structure, health, functions, and benefits. A dynamic planning and management model is presented that encourages decisions that will support sustainability through the implementation of collaborative and adaptive management.

Elmendorf, W.F., V.J. Cotrone, and J.T. Mullen. July 2003. Trends in Urban Forestry Practices, Programs and Sustainability: Contrasting a Pennsylvania, U.S., Study. *Journal of Arboriculture* 29(4): 237-248.

*These studies provide evidence that difficulties exist in completing important practices (e.g., inventories, street tree ordinances, management plans), which contribute to both better urban forest programs and sustainability. In a recent study of both small town tree commissions and programs in northeastern Pennsylvania U.S., there was a marked difference between tree commission members' attitudes toward urban forestry practices and the successful completion of them.

Grey, G.W. March 1978. What Should Be the Role of State Government in Municipal Arboriculture-Urban Forestry?. *Arboricultural Journal* 4(3): 71-72.

*Opinions are subject to bias. This is his opinion based on the experience of administering a state program in urban forestry.

Handbook of Urban and Community Forestry in the Northeast. 2000. Edited by John E. Kuser. 434 pp. Published by Kluwer Academic Publishers.

*John Kuser, professor of forestry at Rutgers University, has compiled an easy-to-read and useful volume on urban forestry. The Handbook of Urban and Community Forestry in the Northeast consists of 26 chapters written by prominent researchers and

practitioners. While the title portends a focus on the forestry in the northeast, 34 contributing authors from across the country provide a broad perspective on the central concepts of design and management. Devoted to elements of planning and design. The balance details the establishment and maintenance of trees in urban settings. With respect to planning and design, the history of urban forestry is reviewed and a collection of chapters enumerates program planning and development.

Johnston, Mark. August 1996. A Brief History of Urban Forestry in the United States. *Arboricultural Journal* 20:257-278.

*This paper is a brief account of the history of the urban forestry movement in the United States. While developments there have had a considerable influence on urban forestry in other countries, the paper is not concerned with its international impact.

Jorgensen, Carl. November 1976. Challenges of Municipal Arboriculture. *Arboricultural Journal* 2(11): 217-220.

*Municipal arboriculture encompasses four principal objectives: 1) quality tree planting programs as growth of a city occurs, 2) preservation of existing trees, 3) maintenance of trees on the public ROW and city properties, and 4) education of general public as to the value of trees. Varying approaches to these four objectives and the means of carrying them out are presented.

Kuhns, M.R., B. Lee, and D.K. Reiter. November 2005. Characteristics of Urban Forestry Programs in Utah, U.S.. *Journal of Arboriculture* 31(6): 285-295.

*Urban/community forestry programs in Utah, U.S., were studied; a questionnaire was sent to community forestry contacts in every incorporated community in the state in summer 2002. Respondents reported on program support, budget, management authority and practices, strengths and weaknesses, and training and information needs.

McDermott, T.P. August 1979. The Charlotte Tree Program. *Arboricultural Journal* 5(8): 179-182.

*This article is an outline of what Charlotte had accomplished and where they were heading to fulfill the goals they initially set out; development of a tree planting program, management and maintenance, tree ordinance, and master street tree plan.

McDermott, T.P., and F.P. Neumann. April 1977. Municipal Arboriculture in Charlotte, North Carolina. *Arboricultural Journal* 3(4): 78-80.

*In growing cities like Charlotte, North Carolina there is constant need to maintain the best manner possible the existing street trees, especially when little else other than answering complaints has been the rule for years. But more important to the future tree scape of any such city is a vigorous planting program. Given municipal budgets these both need to be done at a minimal cost.

Miller, Robert W. 1997. *Urban Forestry: Planning and Managing Urban Greenspaces* (2nd edition). Prentice Hall, Upper Saddle River, NJ. 502 pp.

*Addresses how to carefully and successfully plan for and manage urban vegetation. With its numerous photos, tables, line drawings, graphs, and charts, this new edition contains up-to-date information on: the history and uses of urban vegetation, appraisal and inventories, the planning process, and management maintenance.

Oates, J.T. August 1975. *The Essentials of Municipal Arboriculture*. *Arboricultural Journal* 1(8): 148-150.

*The essentials of municipal arboriculture means the essential of commercial arboriculture in its application to municipal conditions. The Author relates problems that he experience in his municipal work. Any knowledge that he may have of municipal arboriculture comes from what he experienced in the City of Richmond, Virginia and observed in other cities.

Overbeek, J.A. November 1979. *Increased Efficiency in Urban Forestry*. *Arboricultural Journal* 5(11): 262-264.

*In 1975 the City of Grand Rapids, Michigan undertook a two-year study of the productivity of its Forestry Division. The study made use of a computerized cost accounting system to control and tabulate data regarding the various costs per units completed. Various work methods were used and then compared to determine the most efficient work method.

Schroeder, H.W., T.L. Green, and T.J. Howe. July 2003. *Community Tree Programs in Illinois, U.S.: A Statewide Survey and Assessment*. *Journal of Arboriculture* 29(4): 218-225.

*This article reports the combined results of two surveys of Illinois, U.S., communities about the status and needs of their community tree programs. The surveys were intended primarily to help state and federal agencies and private organizations to more effectively target the support they give to Illinois community tree programs.

Skiera, R.W. June 1978. *What Should be the Role of Government in Municipal Arboriculture?*. *Arboricultural Journal* 4(6): 140-141.

*As local budgets are being trimmed, the role of government in municipal forestry is becoming more important each budget year.

Straka, T.J., A.P. Marsinko, and C.J. Childers. May 2005. *Individual Characteristics Affecting Participation in Urban and Community Forestry Programs in South Carolina, U.S.* *Journal of Arboriculture* 31(3): 131-137

*This article reports the results of a 2003 statewide survey of South Carolina, U.S., residents concerning characteristics affecting participation in urban and community forestry programs. Results are intended to increase effectiveness of program planning and organization within state forestry commissions.

Treiman, T., and J. Gartner. July 2004. Community Forestry in Missouri, U.S.: Attitudes and Knowledge of Local Officials. *Journal of Arboriculture* 30(4): 205-213.

*This information is used to evaluate the state's community forestry program, which is designed to coordinate and facilitate the efforts made by many jurisdictions and entities that own and affect community forests. Survey findings indicate that most communities lack basic information on tree care and do not employ anyone specifically to care for the community's trees

Treiman, T., and J. Gartner. September 2005. What Do People Want from Their Community Forests? Results of a Public Attitude Survey in Missouri, U.S. *Journal of Arboriculture* 31(5): 243-250.

*A self-administered survey of randomly selected recipients in 44 Missouri, U.S., communities found that most Missourians were very concerned about the quality of natural resources and having trees on streets and in parks. Respondents felt that Missouri was not doing well at making sure fewer trees are lost during development and at managing stormwater runoff.

Webb, Richard. February 1998. Managing Pressures for Tree Growth in Hong Kong. *Arboricultural Journal* 22:61-71.

*Due to the intensity of development in urban Hong Kong it is one of the most difficult of places to plant street trees. The coordination of administrative procedures to overcome these problems has been vital in ensuring the success of the 'Green Hong Kong Campaign'. These procedures are outlined together with those involved in a major urban fringe forestry project.

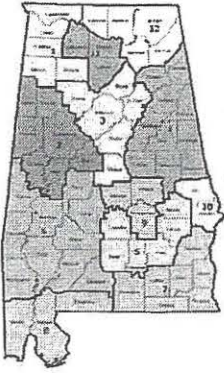
Webb, Richard. February 1999. Learning from Urban Forestry Programs in South East Asia. *Arboricultural Journal* 23:39-56.

*These lessons include the validity of urban forestry as a concept, the importance of a 'city greening' initiative at the highest level of government and which is supported by effective policy, the necessity of coordination among the departments concerned, the benefits of the urban forest, and the implications of exactly who might benefit from the urban forest.

Prior NUCFAC grants reviewed:

Dissemination of an Approach to Integrate Urban Tree Planting into State and Federal Air Quality Improvement Programs (2001), Electronic Media Tutorial Programs to

Improve Urban Tree Establishment and Maintenance (2000), Guidelines for Developing and Evaluating Tree Ordinances on the Web (1999), Making Tree Roots Visible (1999), Tree Planting and Care Public Information Packet for Utilities (1998), Sustainable Urban and Community Forestry Program Guidebook (2001), Building Effective Partnerships for City Trees (1993), The Street Tree/Utility Easement Conflict (2002), Urban Forest Management and Public Works: Improving Communications and Building Capacity.



Alabama Association of Regional Councils

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Bill Tucker

AARC President

February 12, 2009

Jerri J. LaHaie, CAE
Executive Director
Society of Municipal Arborists
P.O. Box 641
Watkinsville, GA 30677

Re: Society of Municipal Arborists
"Best Management Practices" Project

Dear Ms. LaHaie:

The Alabama Association of Regional Councils is pleased to be a collaborative partner with the Society of Municipal Arborists in their application for grant funding from the National Urban and Community Forestry Advisory Council's Urban and Community Forestry Challenge Cost-Share Grant Program.

Managing the Urban Forest can provide many benefits to communities. The extent of these benefits is often unknown or misunderstood by local governments. Much attention is being focused on "going green" and "building sustainable communities." Urban Forestry techniques can support these endeavors and I would like our member governments to better understand this interplay and the benefits that come with managing the urban forest. I believe that the product of this grant funding will assist greatly in this end.

Please let this letter demonstrate our partnership and assure you that we will collaborate on the refinement of the Best Management Practices and facilitate the dissemination of the Best Management Practices to our member Regional Planning Commissions.

Sincerely,

Bill J. Tucker
President, AARC

CARPCD

CENTRAL ALABAMA REGIONAL PLANNING
AND DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION

AUTAUGA, ELMORE & MONTGOMERY COUNTIES

Jiles Williams, Jr.
Chairman

Bill J. Tucker
Executive Director

February 11, 2009

Ms. Jerri Lahaie, Executive Director
c/o Society of Municipal Arborists
P.O. Box 641
Watkinsville, GA 30677

RE: Society of Municipal Arborists
"Best Management Practices" Project

Dear Ms. Lahaie:

As one of twelve Regional Planning Commissions in Alabama, the Central Alabama Regional Planning and Development Commission is most pleased to see an effort made to develop best practices for integrating urban forestry into environmental planning. There should be a natural blend of urban forestry best practices into the Regional planning process. Bringing together urban foresters, regional planners and others statewide will ultimately foster greater collaboration and integrate urban forestry into the local planning process.

In short, I welcome the opportunity to be a collaborative partner in this endeavor and I pledge our full support in this most worthy project.

Sincerely,



Bill J. Tucker
Executive Director