



CLIMATE CHANGE RESPONSE FRAMEWORK

Urban Forestry Project *est. 2014*

Project Scope

Urban forests will experience local climate change impacts in the coming decades. To reduce these impacts, urban forest managers will need to adapt their management, but often lack the specialized knowledge and tools to do so. This effort expands upon the work and experience of several other Climate Change Response Framework projects in the Midwest and Northeast, which have successfully created information, partnerships, and tools to integrate climate change into forest management.

This project focuses on delivering information on climate change adaptation to meet the unique challenges of working in urban environments.

Project Objectives

The overall goal of this effort is to **ensure that urban forests will continue to provide benefits to the people that live in urban communities as the climate changes.** We are working toward this goal by accomplishing the following objectives:

- Engaging with communities across the Northeast, Mid-Atlantic, and Midwest that are interested in adapting their urban forest management to climate change.
- Working with these communities to assess the vulnerability of their urban forests to climate change.
- Identifying and/or develop tools to aid adaptation of urban forests to climate change.
- Developing real-world examples of climate-informed management of urban forests.


Following a successful pilot effort in the Chicago area in 2014-2015, we will be expanding to new areas in 2016.

Contact us

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Chicago Pilot

A pilot project in the Chicago area developed and tested approaches that will meet the unique needs of forestry professionals working in urban environments.

Key partners in Chicago effort include:

- US Forest Service
- Chicago Wilderness
- The Morton Arboretum
- Chicago Region Trees Initiative
- The Field Museum
- Chicago Botanic Garden.



NIACS and the Morton Arboretum co-sponsored 2014 Urban Tree Conference: Managing Urban Forests in a Changing Climate.

Experts from around the country were gathered to discuss the latest research and applications for climate change impacts and adaptation in urban forests.

NIACS led two workshops with municipalities, park districts and forest preserve districts in the Chicago region. One workshop focused on assessing vulnerability and the other focused on adaptation.

A vulnerability assessment that summarizes key impacts to urban forests in the Chicago region and methods for assessing vulnerability is currently in review.

- 1 conference
- 2 workshops
- 4 municipalities
- 3 parks districts
- 3 forest preserve districts

