

**TREES FOREVER: FOR 20 YEARS, EDUCATING AND ASSISTING IOWA COMMUNITIES ABOUT THE USE OF NATIVE SPECIES IN LANDSCAPE & TRANSPORTATION ENHANCEMENT PROJECTS**

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*Abstract:* Since the establishment of the Living Roadway Trust Fund (LRTF) at the Iowa Department of Transportation, Trees Forever has been working with LRTF and community volunteers to broaden the use of native plant materials in transportation-related enhancements and beautification efforts. Trees Forever provides technical support to these projects to ensure their success. Technical support ranges from site design to plant selection, site preparation, planting techniques, establishment practices, volunteer recruitment, grant writing and working with public officials. This poster will highlight through photographs and descriptive narrative Trees Forever's more than 20 year history working with volunteers to use native prairie and savanna species in Iowa's communities. Through Trees Forever's work providing community assistance for LRTF and in administering the *Iowa's Living Roadways Projects* Program, 354 projects have been funded across the state in counties and in communities with populations less than 10,000. These efforts have resulted in the involvement of 17,906 volunteers contributing over 137,268 hours planting 36,394 native trees and shrubs, 106,159 perennial plugs, and 31,439 pounds of native grass and forb seed.