FAQ

1. What is a tree inventory?
A tree inventory is a systematic process of gathering data that describes the location, quantity, and characteristics of trees within a defined geographic area for purposes of urban forest planning, management, and/or conservation. After the data are collected and synthesized, a tree inventory can also become a product, presented as a report to the manager. For more information on tree inventories please see Addendum B.

2. What is a management plan?
A management plan is a document that describes how urban forestry goals are to be accomplished within a defined time period. For more information on what to include in your management plan please see Addendum C.

3. What is a tree canopy assessment?
A tree canopy assessment provides a measure of a community's tree canopy cover as a percentage of the total land area and serves as a baseline for setting tree canopy goals and measuring progress.

4. What is a tree ordinance or tree protection policy?
A tree ordinance is a law enacted by a local government that regulates how trees are maintained, removed, and preserved/protected within a defined area, usually a city or county.

5. Why can't we plant maple trees?
An analysis of tree inventories from 14 Indiana communities ranging from 2016-2022 shows that around 31% of all street trees were in the *Acer* (Maple) genus. We have learned from our experiences with the American Elm and Dutch Elm Disease and the Ash tree and the Emerald Ash Borer that an urban forest with a wide range of tree species is more resilient to these ever-present threats of pest and diseases. For more information, please see the **Indiana Tree Species Guide** found here: Indiana Tree Species Guide

6. We would like to use grant funding to start an Urban Food Forest/Community Garden. Can we use grant funds to plant non-native species for this project?
Yes. We do ask that you still include some native fruit and nut producing species, but you may also plant non-native fruit and nut producing species. Please contact our office before applying if you plan to apply for this type of funding for approval of species.

7. We would like to use grant funding to start an Urban Food Forest/Community Garden. Can we plant blueberries, strawberries, etc. with this grant?

No. Only what are considered to be trees are eligible to be planted with this grant. We consider trees a woody perennial that typically has a single trunk and potentially grows to a diameter greater than 4 inches, and/or reaches 20 or more feet tall at maturity.

8. What is a maintained area? What is a natural area?

   For the purpose of this grant, we consider **maintained areas** to be tree lawns, street rights of way, and any other green spaces that are regularly maintained and/or mowed. **Natural areas** would be unmaintained natural spaces. For example, this could be a section of a city park that is a forest, prairie, meadow, wetland, etc.

9. Our community has a population smaller than 10,000. Can we still apply for the CUFA grant?

   Yes.

10. Our organization is a non-profit but is not a 501(c)3. Can we still apply?

    Yes. However, you must provide proof of non-profit status in your application.

11. Our organization manages natural areas where completing an inventory of every tree on the property is not feasible. Do we still need an inventory in order to apply for funds to plant trees?

    No. If you would like to use grant funds to plant trees in your natural areas you will need to provide an updated assessment or management plan for the proposed planting area.

12. What is the Indiana DNR Terrestrial Plant List?

    The Indiana DNR Terrestrial Plant List is a list of plants that have been designated as invasive by the Terrestrial Plant Rule (312 IAC 18-3-25). The list of plants and more information can be found here: Terrestrial Invasive Plants

13. How can we provide proof of an updated tree inventory?

    You may provide any of the below items in order to meet the updated tree inventory requirement.

    - Complete inventory data via Excel spreadsheet
    - ArcGIS shape/point data layers
    - Link to your publicly available online tree inventory

14. Why do we need to have an ordinance and tree inventory before we can plant trees?

    One of the goals of tree planting projects funded by CUF is to plant a resilient urban tree canopy. In order to have a resilient tree canopy you need to have a wide range of tree species. If you do not have a tree inventory, then you do not know what tree species are already present in your community. Having an updated tree inventory tells you what you have and will help you in future planting decisions. For more information on why planting a wide range of tree species is important, please see the **Indiana Tree Species Guide** found here: Indiana Tree Species Guide.

The reason it is important to have a tree ordinance before you start planting trees is because a tree ordinance will regulate how trees are maintained, removed, and preserved/protected in your community.

15. We already have a contractor we work with. Do we still need to go through the bidding process?
Yes. You may choose to work with the contractor you have in the past, but you must still go through the bidding process.