

PRESS RELEASE  
For Immediate Release

The Village of Highwood, City of Zion and City of Waukegan, in partnership with the Chicago Region Trees Initiative (CRTI) and key partners The Morton Arboretum and Openlands have received funding from the U.S. Forest Service to plant 450 trees on public and private property.

The Chicago region has lost 13 million trees in the past seven to ten years due to Emerald Ash Borer. These trees provided important services to communities and to the people who live and work there. Trees are critical infrastructure. They intercept and take up stormwater to reduce flooding, remove pollution from our air and water, reduce temperatures and energy usage during the summer, improve property values and economic development in commercial districts, improve mental and physical health, and provide important habitat for wildlife.

The Chicago Region Trees Initiative is a coalition of organizations working together to improve the health of the urban forest and quality of life for the people who live here. Partners from CRTI, The Morton Arboretum and Openlands, will be working with community leadership and individual residents in Highwood, Zion and Waukegan to provide workshops, training and one-on-one assistance to select and plant trees on their properties.

Workshop, tree related events, plantings, and site visits will begin in fall of 2019 and will continue through fall of 2021. If you are interested in participating in this project please contact Trinity Pierce at [tpierce@mortonarb.org](mailto:tpierce@mortonarb.org).