



Request for Proposals: Comprehensive Literature Review of Costs of Not Maintaining Trees

The International Society of Arboriculture is seeking proposals to perform a literature review; create a database of literature found; analyze the results in a scholarly manuscript for the journal *Arbiculture & Urban Forestry*; and summarize the findings in *Arborist News* magazine.

PURPOSE OF THE REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

Trees are increasingly viewed as a green infrastructure asset to be managed as other infrastructure is managed, such as pavement, utility lines, and buildings. A great deal of money is spent annually on commercial, municipal, and utility arboriculture. However, a substantial percentage of total expenditures are a consequence of deferred maintenance that results in tree failures, electric service interruptions, and damage to urban infrastructure that threatens public safety and welfare. Scheduled, routine maintenance aimed at preventing tree failures and infrastructure conflicts may save more in the long run than it costs in the short term. Other infrastructure management professions (e.g., public works, transportation engineers, and electric utilities) have developed decision-support tools for evaluating the short- and long-term economic impacts of investing in different levels of service. These tools are supported by a rich body of science that links knowledge about how infrastructure deteriorates without maintenance, with empirical data on costs and effects of different management interventions. An important result is quantification of the long-term costs associated with a lack of investment in routine, preventative maintenance.

The title of this literature review, “The Costs of Not Maintaining Trees,” expresses this concept with regard to arboriculture and urban forestry. The profession requires a comprehensive review of the subject to identify: 1) science, management practices, and tools developed by allied professions that could serve as models for arboriculture and urban forestry (at least two examples from different fields), 2) current science, practice, and tools in arboriculture and urban forestry that are relevant, and 3) future research needed to support development of better practices and tools for arborists.

Download the complete request for proposal online
(<http://www.isa-arbor.com/education/portalToResearch/litReviewSeries.aspx>).

All proposals must be received by the close of business CDT **August 15th, 2011**. Proposals received after the specified date will not be considered.