



COOL CITIES COMMITTEE AGENDA ITEM STAFF REPORT

MEETING DATE:	January 27 th , 2025
TITLE:	2025 Goals & Projects
DEPARTMENT:	Community Development
PROJECT MANAGER:	Caitlin Rice, Senior Planner
REQUESTED ACTION:	Discussion
SUSTAINABILITY FOCUS AREA(S):	Engagement, & Education

2025 Goals:

1. Signage

- a. Mow Less Spring
 - i. [Bee City USA](#) – sign downloads
 - ii. [Bee City Brochure](#)
- b. Leave the Leaves
 - i. [Webster Groves](#)
- c. Native Plant Habitat – wild ones

2. Grants:

- a. <https://treesforever.org/fund/>
- b. [Illinois Community Forestry – Recover, Replant, Restore](#) – Reopens January 27, 2025
 - i. Grants of \$500 to \$3,000 are available to Illinois communities diversifying their community forests or recovering from natural or man-made disasters particularly emerald ash borer (EAB). The grants will also help communities prepare for these disasters by planting more diverse disease- and storm-resistant shade trees. Projects may include planting trees along streets, trails, community entryways, at schools, public buildings, parks and more.
- c. [Illinois Community Canopy Planting Grant](#) - Due March 3, 2025
 - i. Grants of \$3,000 to \$15,000 are available to disadvantaged areas to aid in diversifying their community forests. Projects may include planting trees in public areas such as; along streets, trails, community entryways, at schools, public buildings, cemeteries, parks and more.

3. Sustainability Tip Ideas for 2025

- a. Winter Gardens – Leaving plant material as long as possible.
- b. Seed sowing
- c. Willoughby Classes
- d. Low Mow

4. Events:

- a. Spring Invasives clean up
- b. Spring Litter pick up
- c. Earth Day
- d. Arbor Day
- e. Waste Connections Sustainability Education Center

5. Upcoming Classes

Upcoming Food Too Good To Waste Classes at Collinsville Aqua Park (click on links for details and registration):

February 6, 2025 — [“Maximizing Freshness, Minimizing Food Waste”](#)

February 20, 2025 — [“Eating Away at Food Waste”](#)

Upcoming Composting Classes at Willoughby Heritage Farm

March 13, 2025 — [Composting 101](#)

April 3, 2025 — [Indoor Composting](#) (Vermicomposting and Bokashi)

April 24, 2025 — [Outdoor Composting](#) (Bins and Tumblers)

Upcoming Sustainability Classes at Willoughby Heritage Farm

February 9, 2025 — [Pruning and Tree ID](#)

February 16, 2025 — [Beekeeping](#)

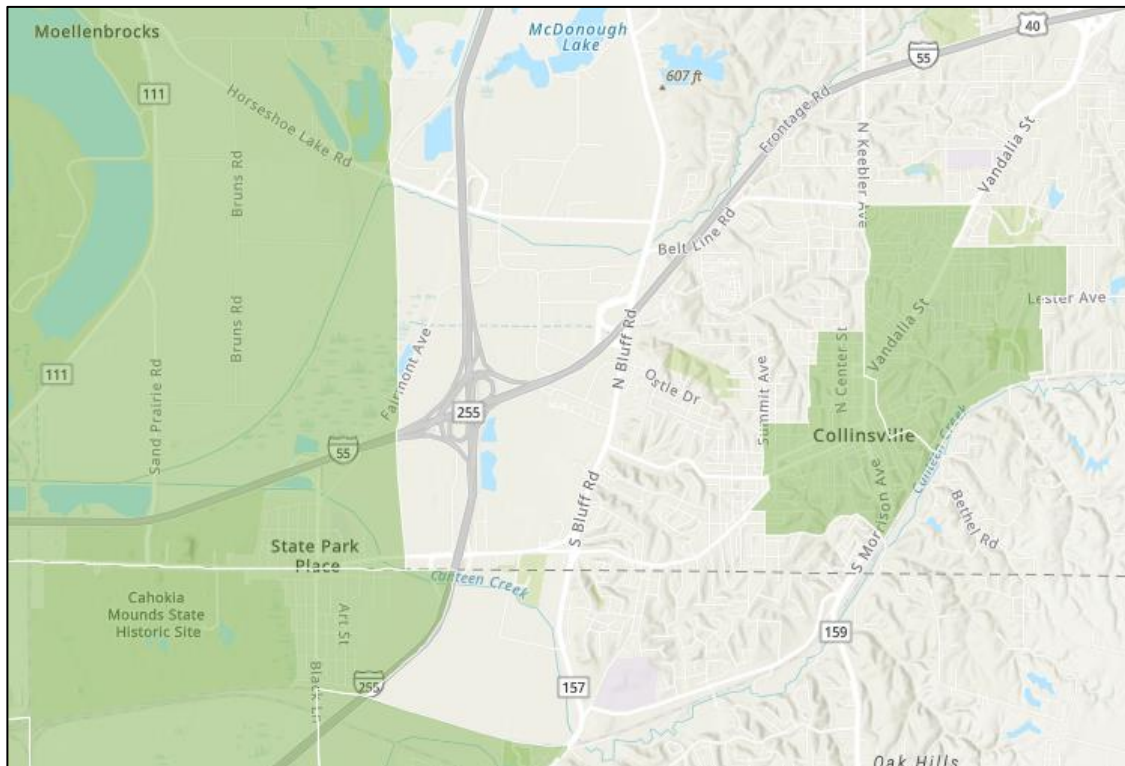


Figure 1-Eligibility for Canopy Planting Grant