

July 26, 2012

The Merrillville Stormwater Utility office hosted "Good Tree Works" municipal arborist training on Wednesday, July 25, 2012, at Hidden Lake Park Social Center in Merrillville.

The training was provided by Mr. Lindsey Purcell, Urban Forestry Specialist from Purdue University in West Lafayette. The workshop was made possible through a grant from the Indiana Department of Natural Resources Community and Urban Forestry Program.

The training included an inside oral presentation and slide show about risk tree assessment, proper pruning and safe street trees, followed by outdoor practical hands-on tree demonstrations. In addition to Merrillville Stormwater Utility Executive Director Matt Lake and two summer interns who just completed a town-wide inventory of 8,000 trees in Merrillville, representatives from Portage, Crown Point, Schererville, Remington, Highland, North Liberty, Terre Haute and Garrett also attended the seminar.

“Trees are a major capital asset in our communities, and it’s critical to understand the maintenance of trees and how to keep them safe”, Matt Lake said. “Urban Trees are the ultimate stormwater treatment plant”, he said. Studies have shown that a typical medium-sized tree can intercept as much as 2,380 gallons of rainfall per year.