

2015 Oral Component Scenario – Urban and Community Forestry

Your team is a Tree Board – a group of volunteers that have been officially recognized by the local town council to create a community forestry plan for your town. The judges are the members of the town council to whom you will be presenting your plan. You have been organizing in the community to resolve a problem with the local courthouse. The building is located in the center of downtown, is home to many government and service offices, and is often a hub of downtown activities due to its proximity to shops and dining. The beautiful landscape there has drastically changed this year. The mature trees in the lawns surrounding the building were primarily ash species, and the Emerald Ash Borers have killed more than half of the trees. In one case, a standing dead tree fell next to a parking lot, prompting the town council to appoint the Tree Board.

Your Tree Board has begun meetings and research into community forestry plans. You have applied for and received a Pennsylvania Department of Conservation of Natural Resources (PA DCNR) grant under the TreeVitalize Planning Grant program for \$1000. The grant would provide funds to implement a community forestry plan that you proposed. The grant requires that the town invest an additional \$1000 into the project as a stipulation of the funds. Your job as a Tree Board is to make a 10 minute presentation to the town council, where you will outline your proposed Community Forestry plan that:

- Addresses the courthouse problem
- Provides other community benefits
- Convinces the town council to provide the \$1000 in matching funds needed to secure the grant

Be sure to include:

- Planting plans and locations (tree and site selection)
- Plans for dealing with space considerations (existing infrastructure such as sidewalks and utility lines)
- Economic and social benefits of the plan
- At least 3 spoken references to cite a source of information for key facts that are relevant to your presentation