

## **Karl Kilmer**

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**178 Scott Creek Rd**  
**Crossville, TN 38571**

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May 11, 2026

City of Crossville  
ATTN: City Clerk/RFP - Urban Forester  
392 North Main Street  
Crossville, TN 38555

Baylee Rhea, City Clerk

I am writing to express my interest in the Request for Proposals for Urban Forestry Services. With 7 years experience with the Crossville City Tree Board, and 30 years as a professional forester, I am confident in my ability to deliver the results expected.

Having thoroughly reviewed the Request for Proposal, along with my knowledge of the grant and its goals, I am particularly drawn to the tree inventory and the revitalization of Centennial Park, as well as any other parks if time permits. I recognize that the grant the City of Crossville has been awarded with is a great opportunity to assess the City's tree assets and establish more trees through planting. I am eager to contribute my skills and expertise to ensure the goals of the grant are successfully completed over the next 2 years.

Enclosed is my proposal. This outlines my approach to the forestry services I will provide to manage the City's urban tree infrastructure and carry out the goals of the grant.

Thank you for considering my proposal. I am available at your earliest convenience to discuss any further details.

Sincerely yours,

Karl Kilmer

# TABLE OF CONTENTS

	Pages
Project Overview	1
Summary of Qualifications	
City of Crossville Tree Board Member	2
Forester - State of Tennessee	2-3
Resume (Outline of work experience and education)	4

## PROJECT OVERVIEW

The broad purpose and goals of the project is to establish a clear vision for the urban forest for the City of Crossville. The grant has provided the opportunity to address concerns regarding long term tree care and to create an urban forestry plan of action.

This should begin with an inventory and assessment of the current status of the urban forest. For inventory purposes I would consider three types of trees: public, private and street trees. And would focus inventories based on specific park locations, downtown, and main streets, such as Hwy 127 from the Interstate to downtown. I would conduct inventory using Urban Forest Matrix Inventory Software. This software will provide detailed info for each tree tallied and provide a geolocation reference to each tree's location. Mapping through this software can easily provide KML files for easy sharing to the City of Crossville's GIS. These maps can then provide a layer for GIS mapping that can be useful for landscape design, planning and revitalization efforts for any of the City's parks. Also, these maps can provide visuals for maintenance plans, both current and long term.

An additional goal of the project is to identify and eliminate invasive and diseased trees. Hazard trees should also be addressed. Inventory will again be the driver for any management actions and to create an implementation plan. Healthy, safe community trees need good management.

Tree planting, during each contract year, will occur in late October through November. Fall planting is recommended because it allows time for root growth before hot weather in the summer. I already have location recommendations for new trees in Centennial Park. Species such as a fast growing oak like Nuttall Oak, and more Hard Maples, can provide shading in a few short years.

It is also important for the implementation and future success of the project to train, and/or inform, the appropriate City personnel the importance of the long term care and maintenance of the Urban Forest. Trees are an investment and should be treated as such with the goal to reduce loss and promote growth. Unnecessary mechanical damage to the base of trees will be addressed. Correct tree planting, pruning and fertilization will all be addressed to assure long term success. My experience with any personnel that I have supervised before have proven that training is most affective when issues are addressed in the field. A hands on training approach, along with the proper information, will be the best method for having the City personnel that will be carrying out any tree maintenance gain the knowledge for proper care. And, hopefully acquire both an understanding and an appreciation for the tree assets they are managing.

## SUMMARY OF QUALIFICATIONS

City of Crossville Tree Board Member:

With 7 years on the City Tree Board I have had several opportunities to respond to and examine requests for tree related needs. Examples include:

- Providing recommendations for the removal of hazard trees located at Centennial Park and on E. First Street.
- Doing a field visit to the new North side of the Soldier Field Trail to examine damaged trees caused by the initial installation of the trail.
- Providing treatment advice for a bag worm infestation on the Spruce Tree located at The Depot Downtown.
- I pruned trees with damaged branches at Garrison Park. Removed all trimmings along with other debris.
- Per request by the City Manager I examined the timber harvest next to the Crossville Airport to assure BMP (Best Management Practice) compliance.

Each year in March I have helped organize and prepare trees for distribution at the City of Crossville's annual Arbor Day Event.

Forester - State of Tennessee:

After 3 years in West Tennessee I transferred to the forester position located at Catoosa Wildlife Management Area here in Cumberland County. That is where I spent most of my career. Although my forester position with TWRA did not primarily focus on the Urban Forest, I can bring to the City of Crossville skills and experience gained in forest, tree and land management.

At Catoosa I was a manager of people, projects and budgets. In comparison to the Urban Forest I was the caretaker of forests, but on a larger scale. This is where I gained the skill of doing extensive inventory, data management, and GIS mapping. After inventory I prepared detailed management plans. The plans included many management actions for the forest land that was inventoried. Actions included cultural work such as tree stand improvement and thinning to favor specific species of trees and promote growth. I prepared the contracts and supervised this work to completion.

## Summary of Qualifications continued . . .

The management plans prepared always included both tree planting and the natural regeneration of hardwoods. The plans included the specific tree species for planting, focusing on forest development as well as wildlife habitat. Tree planting was carried out by contract labor. I supervised this work to completion.

Other work experience at Catoosa that can be beneficial to the City of Crossville's project is the salvage work (tree removal) of tornado damaged trees, as well as tree damage caused by winter/ice storms. This was carried out by timber sale contract.

Another relatable project at Catoosa involved the salvage of pine damaged trees during the East Tennessee/Cumberland Plateau area wide Southern Pine Beetle infestation that occurred in 1999-2000. This was a 2 year project, planning and overseeing the tree removal of these infested trees. This was carried out by several timber sale contracts.

I began employment with the State of Tennessee as an Area Forester in the Division of Forestry in West Tennessee. I wore many different hats in this position but the most relatable work I did was tree planting. Not only in large sized areas for timber production but also at local school properties and for both the City of Lexington in Henderson County and the City of Jackson in Madison County. I was involved with the Arbor Day events in the City of Jackson and one year assisted with tree planting in the city's town square area.

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### **EXPERIENCE**

#### **City of Crossville**

Tree Board Member – May 2019 to Current

#### **State of Tennessee**

##### **Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency**

Forester (Wildlife Manager 2) – October 2004 to February 15, 2019

#### **State of Tennessee**

##### **Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency**

Forester (Wildlife Manager 1) – August 1992 to October 2004

#### **State of Tennessee**

##### **Department of Agriculture, Forestry Division**

Area Forester (Forester 2) – February 1989 to August 1992

### **EDUCATION**

#### **Michigan State University**

East Lansing, Michigan

BS (Major: Forestry)

#### **Brandon High School**

Ortonville, Michigan

Diploma

### **ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

- Basic Police School - TN Law Enforcement Training Academy, 2001