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Healthy Trees, Healthy Cities Training

(Evening Sessions Training Sample Agenda)

*This agenda is for training field staff, interns, or volunteers on how to use the HTHC Mobile App to record tree health and pest data over the course of 2-3 evening sessions. It is suggested to schedule these so outdoor sections, like checks of trees, occur when there is enough daylight to accurately check trees’ health metrics and pest symptoms.*

Location: <Location Here>

Dates: <Insert Dates>

Times: <Vary times for specific needs – but field sections require daylight>

Presenters: <Insert Presenters’ Names Here>

**Evening 1 (2 hours)**

**Welcome and Introductions (15 min)**

*This section can include the following:*

* *Icebreaker*
* *A reminder to download the HTHC Mobile App*

**Monitoring City Trees – Working Locally to Protect our Nation’s Trees (30 mins)**

*This section is for going over the goals of the Healthy Trees, Healthy Cities Tree Health Monitoring Initiative. Discussion of the importance of urban forests, threats to urban forests, and the need to monitor and care for trees.*

**Task One: Minimum Data Set – “Add a Tree” (1 hr 15 min)**

*This section explains the Minimum Data Set – Species, DBH, and Location. The presentation assumes a basic preexisting knowledge of tree species identification. If the expected audience has no or limited exposure to tree identification, the local coordinator may need to expand the training to include a tree ID session and resources.*

*Depending on the base knowledge of the audience, this section can be 30 minutes, or 1-1.5 hours. If audience has no experience with measuring DBH, the extra time should go towards practicing DBH measurements on trees, making sure people understand how to read a DBH tape, where on the tree to measure, and what to do in special circumstances.*

**Evening 2 (2 hours)**

**Task Two: Tree Stress Evaluation – “Tree Health Check” (Indoor/Outdoor) (1 hour)**

Part 1: *Starting outdoors, trainers lead a discussion about what “symptoms” of tree stress may look like. They encourage everyone to point out something on the tree that could indicate stress. Most people will point to broken/dead branches, holes in the bark, fungus/exudation, etc. This exercise reinforces that people intuitively know what to look for on the tree.*

Part 2: *Then, return indoors to go through the metrics presentation, providing specifics about metrics classes, how to estimate percentages, etc. Also walk through the app and how to input responses.*

**Task Three: Signs/Symptoms of Insects and Diseases – “Pest Check” (1 hour)**

Part 1: *Instructor highlights why it is important for people in cities to be on the lookout for specific signs of pests/diseases and share how these specific indicators complement the non-stressor specific data.*

Part 2: *Provide detail on how insects/diseases impact trees (e.g., lifecycles and pathways to destruction for particular species/diseases) to help contextualize how/why we look for specific symptoms. Local managers can select from approximately 15 pests/diseases depending on need/location/threat.*

**Evening 3**

**Quick Review (15 min)**

*Leaders quickly review HTHC Mobile App, how to Add a Tree, run Health and Pest Checks.*

**FIELD WORK (1 hour 45 min)**

*Teams perform field checks (Health and Pest) on trees, recording results using the Mobile App and writing results so they can reference them. Recommended to do one tree together as a group, then pairs do checks on trees flagged by leaders. After teams have completed field checks, group discussion about on each tree. Compare each team’s results and reasonings for the classes they chose for each tree. Often, pest symptoms aren’t found – discuss the importance of early detection. If a pest symptom is found, discuss it.*