

## Benefits of a Storm Plan

When a community develops local storm mitigation and preparedness plans, identify strategies to implement and develop local policy, the benefits can be substantial, including:

Save money,  
Decrease debris removal,  
Reduce damage from falling trees,  
Stabilize the community tree canopy,  
Lower risks,  
Improve coordination and labor,  
Speed up recovery time,  
Reduce collateral damage to existing healthy trees during clean up,  
Creates a procedure for caring for trees, before and after a storm.

### A Message from the State Forester, Charlie Morgan

“The connection between Mississippians and our trees is strong, especially in our urban and community settings. While our state continues to grow in its appreciation of our urban and community forests, we also realize these benefits don’t happen by chance. It is only through active planning and management that our state’s urban forests may realize their full potential. Tornadoes, hurricanes and ice storms are common in our state and detailed plans for storm preparedness and mitigation are becoming a necessity. The Mississippi Forestry Commission is proud to work with cities as they prepare for the coming storm.”

Mississippi Urban Forest Council  
164 Trace Cove Drive, Madison, MS 39110  
(601) 672-0755,  
Donna Yowell, dyowell@aol.com

## Elements of the Storm Plan

- Best Management Practices for all types of storms
- Model Enactment Ordinance
- Storm Resistant Tree Species
- Local Strategies for Pre-storm Planning, Management, Risk Reduction, Response and Recovery
- Personnel Duties and Budget Guides
- Planning Tools and Training
- Resources and Technical Assistance
- Identify Potential Storm Damage to Trees
- Surveying Damage to Trees Following a Storm

Tree riparian zones along creeks, rivers and drainage ditches can slow and reduce storm water runoff and flooding.

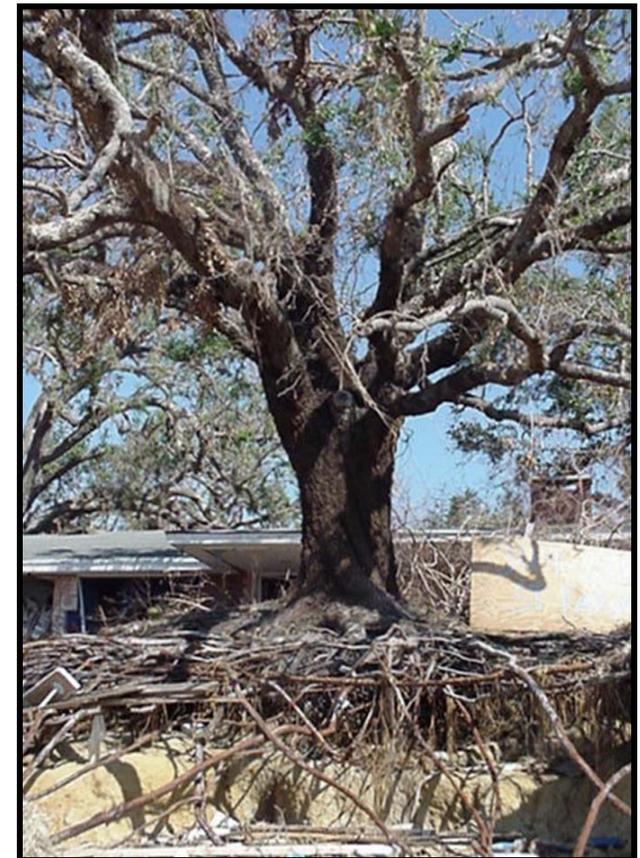


"This model plan is a collaboration of multiple cities and agencies. The project is made possible by a USDA Forest Service Grant administered by the Mississippi Forestry Commission.

# Storm Preparedness and Mitigation Plan and Strategies for Mississippi Communities



MISSISSIPPI URBAN FOREST COUNCIL



# Best Management Practices for Storm Preparedness and Mitigation

## PLANNING

1. Preparation of a Storm Plan provides strategies to reduce storm damage and mitigate storm impacts to the urban forest.
2. Planning prepares a city for tree damage caused by various storm events.
3. Increases storm response efficiency, improves coordination and communication following a storm.
5. Allows a community to understand or survey their trees and forests.

## MANAGEMENT— All phases of operations

6. Tree Storm manager designs a program for tree before and after a storm.
7. Manages the use of city employees, contracted tree care personnel, equipment, and safety operations to eliminate public safety threats during the response.
8. Appoints a Tree Storm Manager to address situations associated with trees while informing the public about potential storm impact to trees.

## RISK REDUCTION—Pre-storm and continuing maintenance

9. Executes pre-storm risk reduction methods to reduce damage.
10. Assists in determining location of hazard trees, condition and species.
11. Demonstrates that pre-storm maintenance reduces storm damage to trees.

## RESPONSE— Activity immediately after a storm

12. Executes the plan for emergency response and use of tree care personnel.
13. Manages emergency tree care operations immediately following a storm.
14. Reduces clean up costs by using consistent arboricultural specifications and tracking response work for all damaged trees.
15. Prevents the removal of strong, healthy trees during the response period.

## RECOVERY —Post-storm activity

16. Helps to establish a post-storm replanting program using more storm resistant tree species, properly spaced and installed.
17. Provides a recycling plan for green waste produced by the storm.
18. Allows the city to account for all response activities, expenses, damage claims and recover the loss of value for trees and tree canopy.



The Storm Mitigation and Preparedness Strategies and Plans are designed to be customized by local municipal and county leaders for implementation in all Mississippi communities. A copy of the Storm Plan and Strategies can be found on the Mississippi Urban Forest Council web site: [www.msurbanforest.com](http://www.msurbanforest.com) or request an electronic copy to [dyowell@aol.com](mailto:dyowell@aol.com).



Three Mississippi communities served as models for this project.



*As a coastal city, it makes sense to incorporate storm resistant trees in our rights-of-ways and public parks, as well as to encourage our citizens to do the same to protect property, minimize damage and post-storm debris, and enjoy our stable tree canopy. Trees contribute tremendous value from both an aesthetic and economic development standpoint. We look forward to implementing these recommendations into our policies and ordinances for future planning and growth.”* **Mayor Connie Moran of Ocean Springs**

*Brookhaven is known for its historic homes and tree lined streets and we recognize that value to our city. The incorporation of storm resistant trees in our rights-of-ways and public parks will preserve our tree canopy and maintain the character that they bring to our community. We look forward to implementing these recommendations into our policies and ordinances for future planning and growth.”* **Mayor Joe Cox of Brookhaven**

