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## ABSTRACT

This applied thesis project is based on an eleven-month urban forestry internship served with the Illinois Department of Natural Resources. The internship was assigned through the Peace Corps Fellows program at Western Illinois University. The main goal of this internship was to assist growing communities at the edge of the Chicago metropolitan region with implementing and enhancing their urban forestry programs. The area covered included Kendall, Will, Kane, Grundy and Kankakee counties in northeastern Illinois.

These counties are among the fastest growing in Illinois. This growth causes an

networking between communities and to facilitate the dissemination of information concerning best practices in urban forestry. These meetings, three in total, are also summarized in this thesis project. The thesis ends with suggestions for improving the

... low forest programs. Also, communities facing similar urban