



Openlands Uses TreePlotter to Simplify Grant Reporting

Better Tracking. Faster Reports.
Stronger Funding Outcomes.

Turning Trees into Transparent Impact

[Openlands](#) has led urban forestry efforts in the Chicago region since 1963. With thousands (they plant about 1,000-1,200 trees per year and over 10,500 since 2014) of trees planted each year through its TreePlanters Grant program and other initiatives, Openlands isn't just expanding the canopy; it's managing a complex web of funders, partners, and reporting requirements to make it all happen.

Keeping that many stakeholders aligned takes more than spreadsheets.

The Challenge: Complex Grants, Tight Reporting

With support from state and federal grants, corporate sponsors, and nonprofit partners, Openlands needed to:

- Track which trees were funded by which grant or partner
- Generate customized reports for each funder
- Create community-facing maps that show impact on the ground
- Submit invoices and progress updates on time, every time

Without a centralized way to track all of this in one place, reporting was slow, siloed, and sometimes inconsistent, putting funding relationships and public transparency at risk.

The Solution: Custom Grant Fields in TreePlotter

Openlands built grant-specific custom fields right into TreePlotter™ INVENTORY, including:

- Funder name
- Nursery source
- Project code or grant cycle

With this data structured upfront, reporting is no longer a scramble. Staff can filter by funder, export grant-specific summaries, or visualize impact by neighborhood, all in just a few clicks.

Real-World Results

These simple customizations have delivered powerful outcomes: his setup has transformed how Openlands runs its planting events:

-  Accurate, on-demand grant reports
-  Timely and consistent invoicing
-  Compelling visuals to show public benefit and ecological impact
-  Support for new funding wins, like a recent \$75,000 EPA education grant

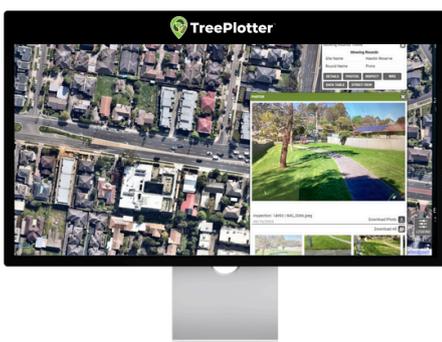
The result? Stronger grant management, clearer impact stories, and more time for what matters: planting trees and building healthier communities.



Progress in Hand, Efficiency Unleashed

"Being able to export a perfectly accurate planting report in minutes takes all of the tedium out of creating a good grant report and allows us to focus on the narrative portions that really highlight the importance of our work"

-Tom Ebeling, Senior Forestry Program Manager, Openlands



Want to See it in Action?

Check out how TreePlotter supports organizations like Openlands in making tree planting more strategic, transparent, and community-driven. [Explore TreePlotter™ INVENTORY now!](#)