

Mayor Daley's GreenStreets Program

USDA Forest Service
Northeastern Area
State and Private Forestry



Description: GreenStreets has planted more than 68,000 trees and hundreds of thousands of plants and shrubs throughout Chicago's neighborhoods and along its streets during the past 20 years. Ordinary citizens and private organizations have partnered with all levels of government to improve Chicago's quality of life and instill a sense of community pride among its residents. Chicago's newly expanded and maintained greenspace provides its citizens a host of benefits that include reduced levels of particulates and other air pollutants, food and habitat for wildlife, noise abatement, stormwater management, and shade and windbreak to ease the effects of pavement and concrete. Studies show that green space improves residents' mental and physical health and offers tangible lessons for children and adults about the importance of natural environments, both rural and urban.

Key Issues:

- Diversify and expand Chicago's urban forest to promote a more sustainable urban regional landscape.
- Continue to increase tree canopy cover to reduce the urban heat island effect, improve air and water quality, reduce noise pollution, and improve the quality of urban life.
- Revitalize neighborhoods through tree planting and community action to create more viable, livable communities.

Accomplishments

- **Increase Tree Canopy Cover/Reduce Urban Heat Island Effect** – Chicago used satellite images to extensively analyze tree cover. Areas with low tree cover and high surface temperatures were planted with 1,889 trees.
- **Emerald Ash Borer (EAB)** – EAB was found in Chicago in June 2008. The city is removing this insect's favorite target by harvesting diseased and declining ash. Federal funds are being used to replant a diverse variety of nonhost tree species. To date, 930 ash trees have been removed and replanted with different species of urban trees. Another 176 ash trees will be removed and replanted with nonhost trees in spring 2010.
- **Chicago Public Schools** – GreenStreets has planted 1,105 trees in parkways near Chicago schools using Federal funds and local contributions.
- **Asian Longhorned Beetle (ALB)** – ALB, another imported tree-killing insect, was discovered and then eradicated from sites in Chicago several years ago. GreenStreets has planted nearly 2,500 parkway trees in the ALB zone over a period of several years, replacing more than 1,500 of the trees that were removed.

Budget History:

Mayor Daley's Green Streets Program				
(\$ Thousands)				
	FY 2006	FY 2007	FY 2008	FY 2009
Totals	\$325	\$350*	\$325	\$285

Future Direction

- Use the city's new remote sensing technology to identify urban heat islands for future tree planting.
- Continue to replace diseased and declining ash trees.
- Continue to plant trees in sparsely vegetated areas along Chicago's parkways, expressways, and schools.
- Support planting to diversify existing tree populations to improve urban forest health and sustainability.
- Continue partnering with public and private organizations and community groups.

Kathryn Maloney, Director
11 Campus Blvd., Suite 200
Newtown Square, PA 19073
610-557-4103 (4177-FAX)
kmaloney@fs.fed.us

Billy Terry, Assistant Director
11 Campus Blvd., Suite 200
Newtown Square, PA 19073
(610) 557-4145 (4177-FAX)
bterry@fs.fed.us

Tom Dille, Natural Resources
Specialist
1033 University Place Suite 360
(847) 866-9311 x 14 (9506-FAX)
Evanston, IL 60201
tdilly@fs.fed.us

