

1998 USDA URBAN FORESTRY

Minnesota

State Forester: Gerald Rose

Contact: Ken Holman
State Urban Forestry Coordinator
MN DNR Forestry
1200 Warner Road
St. Paul, MN 55106
tel: (651) 772-7565
fax: (651) 772-7599
e-mail: ken.holman@dnr.state.mn.us
http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/forestry

Urban and Community Forestry (U&CF) in Minnesota is a cooperative effort among many entities including federal, state, local, non-profit, and volunteer organizations. The Urban and Community Forestry (U&CF) Program in Minnesota seeks to strengthen advocacy of U&CF by local leaders and to increase the capacity of local units of government to manage their community forest resources appropriately.

Program Components

Technical Assistance
Partnerships
Outreach

Highlights

The DNR-Forestry Division added two new staff positions to provide technical assistance. A forest restoration ecologist was hired to provide natural resource assistance to communities. The ecologist teaches residents how to monitor tree plantings and other restoration projects and how to incorporate natural resources into management plans. A natural resource specialist is developing a handbook, *Best Management Practices for Developing Woodlands*, for use by land use planners, developers, and homeowners.

After a year of severe weather, the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) and its partners provided numerous neighborhood and regional workshops, a storm hotline, and fact sheets to help communities respond and recover from storms. With the assistance of University of Minnesota students and faculty, the DNR staff conducted a survey of 400 towns to determine the extent of storm damage and the clean up costs.

The **Minnesota ReLeaf Grant Program** provided state funds for 78 communities and non-profits groups to plant over 10,000 mostly native trees and to treat community forest health problems, including 400 oak wilt centers. Increased state support for 1999 to 2001 will also provide cost-share tree inventories.

The **Tree Care Advisor (TCA) Program** was initiated in 1993 to train local volunteers to be trained advocates for urban forestry projects. Since 1993, the over 150 TCA graduates have documented nearly 20,000 hours of volunteer service. They have assisted in countless Arbor Day, neighborhood, community, workplace, and school planting and educational projects. They have also assisted with street tree surveys and research projects and written tree care articles for state and local media.



Minnesota Tree Care Advisor Program

STATE ACHIEVEMENTS REPORT

The **Ecosystem-Based Management (EBM) workshops** have trained more than 60 people to apply the principles of EBM in their communities. One of the groups who participated, from Lino Lakes, used the EBM approach to institute collaborative residential development in a rapidly growing suburb. The participants learned that the principles of EBM are applicable throughout the state, from inner-city neighborhoods to rural towns. EBM has become the standard training method of the DNR Forestry Division.

The DNR Forest Health Specialists have partnered with county Soil and Water Conservation Districts to provide technical and financial assistance **to control oak wilt** outside of the Twin Cities metropolitan area. Because of this cooperative work with rural landowners, the state has started to reduce the geographic range of this disease.

Three regional Urban and Community Forestry Councils formed because of the need to foster communication and cooperation among neighboring towns. The councils, catalyzed by the participants of the annual Tree Inspector workshops, now meet several times a year to provide site visits or specific training workshops. A fourth regional council is now forming, spawned by the annual Northeast Minnesota Community Forestry Workshop.

The **Minnesota Urban and Community Forestry Council (MnSTAC)** produced the first three quarterly issues of the newsletter, *The Advocate*. This new communications tool provides a broad range of tree-related information to community tree advocates throughout the state. The readership is approaching 4,000 citizens, including all 201 state legislators.



MnSTAC's quarterly newsletter, *The Advocate*, is a new way to disseminate information to community tree advocates and government officials across the state.

Federal Program Support		<i>Dollars in thousands</i>		
The State Program	<u>FY 1995</u>	<u>FY 1996</u>	<u>FY 1997</u>	<u>FY 1998</u>
	264.5	268.3	258.2	230.1