

1998 USDA URBAN FORESTRY

New York

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New York State's Urban and Community Forestry Program is a partnership of public, private, and volunteer organizations that fosters comprehensive urban and community forestry planning, management, and education throughout the state to create healthy ecosystems and enhance citizens' lives. The State Program brings together diverse communities to promote public understanding of the value of urban forests and to advance their ecologically sound development, management, and use.

Program Components

Technical Assistance
Grant Aid
New York ReLeaf
Disaster Assistance

Highlights

The New York Urban and Community Forestry Program awarded **26 grants totaling \$140,000** for urban forestry education projects and planting projects with an educational component.

In 1998, New York suffered a major ice storm which shut down communities in northern New York for a 2-3 week period. State forestry staff assisted communities in identifying hazardous trees and applying for federal disaster assistance funds. After the initial response a program of education and restoration was initiated. With \$2 million in federal assistance earmarked for northern New York communities, a grants program was instituted to develop urban forestry plans for affected communities and to provide cost share funds for the implementation of restoration efforts.

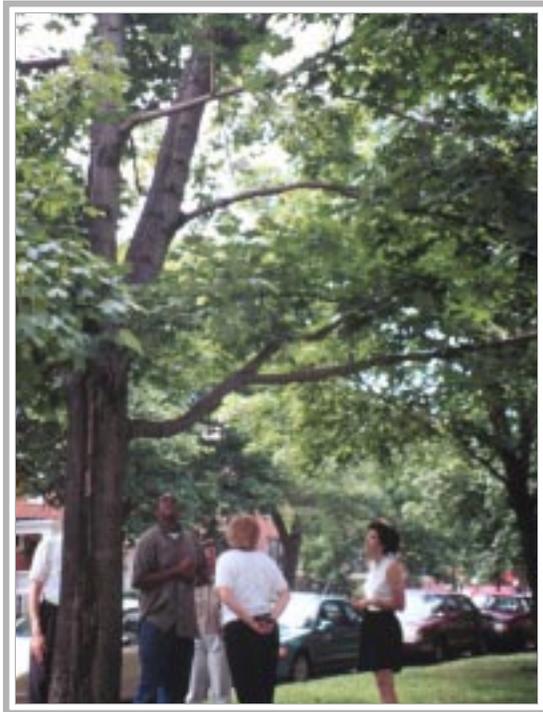
The Annual **New York ReLeaf State conference** was organized by the Urban Forestry Council and the Long Island ReLeaf Committee. The nearly 200 participants, from a wide variety of backgrounds, learned about important new techniques for tree management, attended hands-on demonstrations, and networked with peers.



**New York
ReLeaf**

STATE ACHIEVEMENTS REPORT

The **Asian long-horned beetle** infestation in Brooklyn and Amityville posed an additional threat to New York's urban forest. Through continued education and restoration efforts the greening effort is under way. A replanting program has been initiated to replace the trees removed on private lands with a mix of federal, state, and local funding. In New York City, 50 homeowners had 139 trees replaced in their backyards, in addition to the 1,121 street and park trees planted in 1998.



Inspecting trees for Asian long-horned beetles

A two-day Urban Forestry School was offered to train the state's forestry staff in urban forest management. Foresters from all regions of the state attended the program organized by Cornell University and the Northeast Urban Forestry Center at the University of Massachusetts. The foresters learned inventory techniques, site selection and analysis, planting techniques, species selection, tree maintenance, and plan development. Follow-up workshops are planned for the coming year.

The annual **Arbor Day poster and bookmark** and the **New York State Tree Nursery School Seedling Program** served to promote Arbor Day and provide educational opportunities for innovative schoolteachers. The nursery produced school seedling packets for schoolyard plantings of windbreaks and plants that attract wildlife. The tree planting projects were combined with lessons in biology, energy conservation, and erosion control. In 1998, over 750 schools participated in the program.

The State Program has been strengthened by the development of a **five-year strategic plan**. A mission and vision for the program were developed by a cross section of individuals representing grass roots organizations, industry, utilities, educators, and government agencies. Through continued efforts the completed plan should be in effect for 1999.

Federal Program Support

Dollars in thousands

The State Program	<u>FY 1995</u>	<u>FY 1996</u>	<u>FY 1997</u>	<u>FY 1998</u>
	442.2	743.9	642.0	740.9*

*Includes \$262,000 in Ice Storm funds