

1998 USDA URBAN FORESTRY

Wisconsin

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The mission of the Wisconsin Urban Forestry Program is to encourage and enable sound management of Wisconsin's urban forest ecosystems and the Forest Service's broad outcome of "Vital Communities Through Healthy Ecosystems."

Program Components

Public Awareness
Program Support
Partnerships
Technical Support
Dynamic Planning and Management
Research & Education

Highlights

DNR Forestry awarded 60 new cost-share grants totaling \$627,627 to communities and non-profits using state and federal funding, including a state budget increase of \$200,000.

Fifteen workshops on **Tree Hazard and Risk Assessment** were attended by a record 670 people. The State Program also cosponsored a statewide urban forestry conference with the state arborist and landscape architects societies attracting a record 460 participants.

This year 117 Tree City USAs, 25 Growth Awards, and two Tree Line USA utilities were certified, all new records.

Urban forestry's impact and appeal extends to small communities like the **Village of Dresser**, (pop. 644). The village clerk and maintenance superintendent partnered with a local utility, a consultant, volunteers, and the WDNR to form a tree board, conduct a tree inventory, write a tree ordinance and management plan, replace trees, develop a tree care brochure and celebrate Arbor Day. Once an unfamiliar term, urban forestry is now a distinguishing characteristic of this small rural village.

The **City of Stevens Point** and the University of Wisconsin developed a **GIS tool for assessing the green space value** of undeveloped land. Map "layers" depicting natural resource characteristics, property ownership, zoning districts, and current land use were analyzed to identify lands with high ecological, recreational, and aesthetic value. This prioritizes lands for acquisition and preservation to develop inter-community greenspace systems.

The WDNR and the **City of Milwaukee** convinced the legislature to provide \$100,000 over two years to develop a **private property tree planting demonstration project** to show neighborhoods and small communities how to take urban forestry beyond public rights-of-way. A partnership with the nonprofit, Greening Milwaukee, this project will plant trees on private property through citizen education and involvement and establish a method for other groups and communities to follow.

STATE ACHIEVEMENTS REPORT

DNR Forestry produced technical and informational publications. A four-color brochure on **oak wilt disease** and on building in the rapidly developing parts of the state was distributed to field foresters and other professionals, and a quarterly newsletter was circulated to more than 3900 recipients.

Wisconsin's 1998 **Arbor Day Poster Contest** winner, Ryan Stephens, Almond-Bancroft School, Almond, WI, won the National Arbor Day Foundation's competition. Ryan was honored at a ceremony by Wisconsin's Governor Thompson and by the NADF at its Arbor Day Award Ceremony in Nebraska City, NE. In addition, an Arbor Day calendar highlighting the top poster contest entries was distributed to thousands of people.

Local tree care companies, dismayed with the condition of the street trees in the City of Janesville, (pop. 51,000) started the **Janesville Shade Tree Advisory Committee** along with parks staff and WDNR assistance. Their long-term goal is to develop a comprehensive tree care program in Janesville. While it is common for commercial arborists to support community tree care efforts, it is far less common for a half-dozen competing arborist to initiate this. They recognize that their success will not only increase the health and aesthetics of public trees, but will improve stewardship of private trees as well.



Governor Thompson presents Ryan Stephens with the Arbor Day poster contest award.

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>
	330.0	285.8	280.4	258.8