

## Utilizing Municipal Trees: Ideas from Across the Country

### The Challenge

In the United States over **200 million cubic yards** of urban tree and landscape residue are generated every year. **Approximately 15 percent of this material includes wood that is large enough to be sawn into lumber.**

Unfortunately, many urban foresters and municipal managers have difficulty finding markets for urban trees and so **the wood is landfilled or chipped** for landscaping materials.

### The Solution

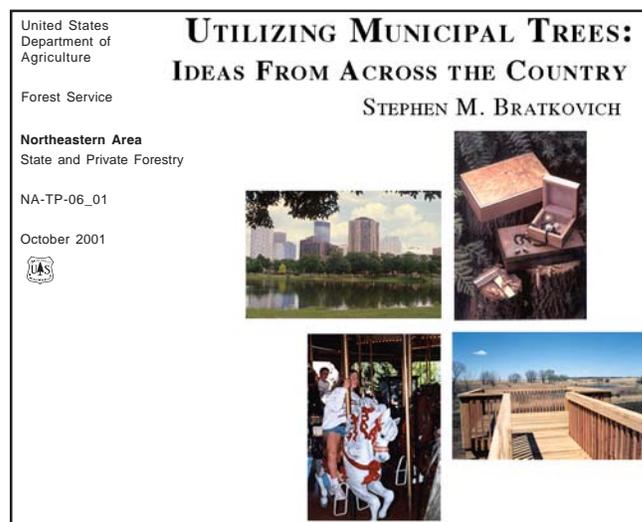
With demand for wood products increasing and landfills filling up fast, Steve Bratkovich, Marketing and Utilization Forester for the Northeastern Area, saw an opportunity to make a difference. **Urban trees removed due to old age, hazardous conditions and poor health could provide an untapped resource for wood products.**

As a result of his research and professional contacts, Steve collected inspiring stories from entrepreneurs, tree-care firms, city foresters, and sawmill operators that were using urban wood for fine furniture, unique woodcrafts, and other lumber products from otherwise wasted urban trees. He compiled these stories into a 90-page, full color booklet "**Utilizing Municipal Trees: Ideas From Across the Country.**"

### Resulting Benefits

Urban foresters, municipal managers and enterprising entrepreneurs now have a 'how to' source for marketing and using urban wood. In addition, they have contacts for follow-up information and ideas for turning urban wood waste into everything from carousel horses to wood decking.

*If all of the urban trees removed due to storm damage, insect or disease problems, construction or poor health could be sawn into lumber it would equal nearly 30 percent of the hardwood lumber produced annually in the United States.*



*This 90-page book is designed to help entrepreneurs, city foresters and municipal managers realize the potential of urban wood waste.*

### Sharing Success

Since its release in January 2002, the USDA Forest Service Northeastern Area **distributed 3,000 copies** of the publication.

The author, Steve Bratkovich, co-sponsored **two national conferences** on Utilizing Urban Wood Waste with the **National Arbor Day Foundation**, presented at **one International, three National** conferences and **over 20 state-wide and regional** forest products meetings.

Several business and forest products industry magazines featured articles developed from the book including:

- *Independent Sawmill and Woodlot Management,*
- *In Business: Creating Sustainable Enterprises and Communities,*
- *Biocycle: Journal of Composting and Organics Recycling,*
- *Forest Products Equipment: Journal of the Entire Forest Products Industry.*

In 2002, the author and the publication received the **Chief's Award for Excellence in Technology Transfer** from the USDA Forest Service.



USDA Forest Service  
**Northeastern Area**  
 State and Private Forestry

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