

Accomplishment Report 2007 – Iowa

November 1, 2007

State Contact

Randy Cook
Department of Natural Resources
502 East 9th Street
Des Moines, Iowa, 50319
Phone: (515) 281.5600
Fax: (515)-281-6794
E-mail: randy.cook@iowadnr.gov
Web site: www.iowadnr.gov/forestry/urban.html

Introduction

The Iowa Urban and Community Forestry (IUCF) program provides broad-based technical, educational, and financial assistance to communities, individuals and organizations. Residents value the program as a resource to protect and improve community trees and forests. Program activities result in improved awareness of urban forestry, its practices, and the benefits of managing a sustained and healthy natural resource.

IUCF avidly promotes and supports the National Arbor Day Foundation's *Tree City USA* program. In April 2007, 250 individuals representing 77 communities were recognized for Tree City USA accomplishments. In addition, the Iowa Department of Natural Resources (DNR) bestowed awards for outstanding work in the categories of volunteer, professional, youth project, local partner, media partner, and organization.

Statewide Projects Prepare Iowa's Future Tree Stewards

Education and training for adults and youth is an ongoing IUCF priority. Trained and committed volunteers may become *Iowa Community Tree Stewards* who advise their community leaders on tree-related issues and future needs.

In 2007, the DNR contracted with Iowa State University to provide educational outreach to more than 750 participants through 30 community tree workshops. Participants learned about tree identification, species selection, tree growth, planting and care, diagnosing tree damage and problems, conducting community tree inventories, and developing tree programs.

This year, 52 stewards graduated from the Community Tree Steward program which adds to the total of 693 who graduated previously. The program has generated more than 22,800 hours of volunteer service.

The related *Community Tree Steward Program for Youth* trained 315 fifth and sixth grade students in six school districts throughout the state. In total in 2007, 10,500 students from 18 counties participated in school-sponsored tree programs.

Operation ReLeaf and Plant Some Shade Energizes Planting Statewide

Adding tree cover throughout Iowa is another IUCF priority. The DNR, Alliant Energy, County Conservation Boards, and Resource Conservation and Development Districts partnered in *Operation ReLeaf*, a residential tree distribution project. More than 2,900 homeowners residing in Alliant Energy's statewide service areas received 6,500 landscape trees for planting. To implement the project, Alliant Energy contributed \$250,000. Homeowners contributed in excess of \$600,000. More than 57 local

nursery operators supplied trees for the project. Homeowners' enthusiasm and involvement increases the likelihood that the trees will be cared for, mature, and improve Iowa's communities long-term. This program results in adding species diversity to privately owned lands as well.

A parallel program sponsored by MidAmerican Energy, *Plant Some Shade*, resulted in more than 3,500 landscape trees being distributed to 1,700 homeowners residing in MidAmerican Energy's statewide service areas. More than 25 local nurseries supplied trees for this project with MidAmerican contributing more than \$85,000, matched by the homeowners with \$110,000.

Statistics

Grants to Communities:	23
Volunteer assistance generated (hours):	48,050
Tree City USA:	109
Tree City USA Growth:	31



Conservation starts young in Iowa! By the time this child graduates from high school, the oak he helped plant will provide much-appreciated shade on hot days.