

# 2009 Accomplishment Report – Iowa

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## 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.

The IUCF program combines Federal, State, and investor-owned utility funds to provide support and technical assistance to more than 500 Iowa communities annually. Matching grants are offered to communities throughout the State to increase tree canopy and enhance urban forest resources. Partnerships with cities, counties, and nonprofit organizations enhance and broaden the impact that the IUCF program has had throughout Iowa. During FY2009 Iowa was able to utilize 3 full-time employees providing 3 full-time equivalents (FTEs) and part-time commitments from 13 district foresters and 3 assistant district foresters amounting to 6 FTEs for a total investment of 9 FTEs.

## Key Accomplishments

### Operation ReLeaf

In fall 2001, a partnership was formed with Alliant Energy and the Iowa Department of Natural Resources (DNR) Forestry Bureau to promote energy efficiency, urban forestry tree diversity, and increased tree planting on private lands in Iowa. Operation ReLeaf is a residential tree distribution program with the support of Alliant Energy (\$250,000) that funds an Urban Forestry Specialist with the Iowa DNR Forestry Bureau and provides partial funding to buy and distribute locally purchased landscape trees and sell them at greatly reduced prices to Alliant Energy customers for planting in their yards. The Iowa DNR Bureau of Forestry buys landscape trees on a Request For Proposal basis, establishes local partnerships for distribution with local



Students from Sharpesburg schools plant trees in their city park provided by an Operation ReLeaf tree distribution program.

county and city organizations, and coordinates local tree distribution days with volunteers. During FY2009, a total of 11 tree distribution projects were organized during the spring and fall that distributed a total of 3,859 landscape trees to 2,178 Alliant Energy customers at a cost of \$25/tree. Customers also received planting and care advice, and free wood chip mulch. The value of these trees is approximately \$182,062 with over 765 hours of volunteer service donated to complete the distribution projects.

**Plant Some Shade**

In spring 2003, a partnership was formed with MidAmerican Energy and the Iowa DNR Forestry Bureau to promote energy efficiency, urban forestry tree diversity, and increased tree planting in private yards across Iowa. Plant Some Shade is a residential tree distribution program with the support of MidAmerican Energy (\$185,000) that funds an Urban Forestry Specialist with the Iowa DNR. During FY2009 a total of 13 tree distribution projects were held in cooperation with local, county, and city partners to distribute a total of 4,100 landscape trees to 2,367 MidAmerican Energy customers to plant in their yards. The tree value is \$171,462 with over 596 hours of volunteer service donated to complete the distribution projects.



Students plant trees at the Clarinda Library offered through the Plant Some Shade program.

**Statistical Highlights**

Managing and Developing Communities:	310
Population of Participating Communities:	1,904,239
Volunteer Hours:	13,756