

Iowa

Program Overview

The Iowa U&CF Program serves as a valuable resource to the State's residents. The role of the program is to provide broad-based technical, educational, and financial assistance to communities, individuals, and organizations. The result is improved awareness of urban forestry and its practices and the benefits of managing a sustained and healthy natural resource.

Program Accomplishments

Operation Releaf

The Iowa Department of Natural Resources (DNR), in partnership with Alliant Energy, coordinated 20 residential tree distribution projects through Operation Releaf. A total of 8,437 landscape trees (6-8 feet tall and 21 containerized species) were distributed to 4,134 Alliant Energy customers at 50 percent of the retail price. More than \$394,000 worth of trees (retail value of \$674,960) were purchased from 42 local nurseries and garden centers, and 543 trained volunteers assisted with tree planting and care. Alliant Energy has indicated that they wish to participate again in FY 2003 to duplicate these initial efforts.

Million More by 2004

Using \$250,000 in State grant funds, the Million More by 2004 supported a total of 93 community projects that resulted in the planting of 5,050 new landscape trees on public properties across the State. Community leaders developed proposals, provided a dollar-for-dollar match, and agreed to 5-year maintenance agreements. This was the third year of this effort, and will be the final year due to State budget cuts. More than 15,000 trees were planted with a value of more than \$2 million to local nurseries and garden centers during the life of the program.

Statistical Highlights

Number of participating communities: 594
Number of communities assisted: 526
Number of days of volunteer assistance to the program: 54,153
Number of trees planted: 15,475
Number of Tree City USA communities: 123
Number of Tree City USA Growth Awards: 40

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