

## Maine

### Program Overview

Maine is blessed with a rich natural resource base and is the most forested State in the Nation. As a result, citizens often don't see the need for long-term community forestry planning. Yet, in a time when forest fragmentation, sprawl, and liquidation harvesting top local news, the need for comprehensive community forestry programs could not be greater. Project Canopy, Maine's community forestry program, works to increase awareness about the benefits trees provide and encourage public involvement in community forestry programs.

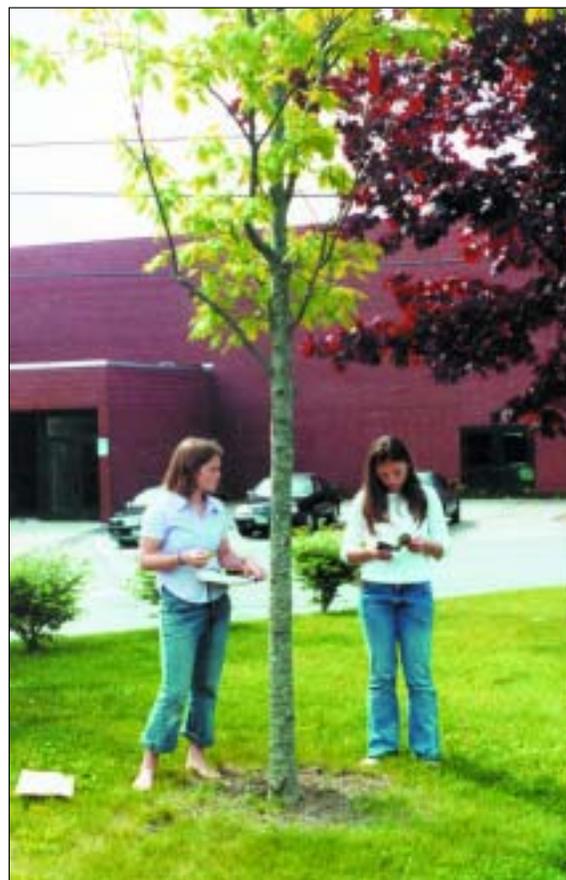
### Program Accomplishments

Project Canopy initiated an aggressive media campaign, through newspaper, radio, and television infomercials, to increase the public's awareness of community forestry and the services that Project Canopy can provide. In addition to staging the media campaign, the project fostered public awareness and citizen involvement through technical assistance, tree steward workshops, newsletters, participation in fairs and community events, and training sessions for local government. The following examples of projects conducted in the past year range from an established program to a program just beginning:

The City of Biddeford, with strong municipal and citizen support, started a Project Canopy Committee and developed a community forestry plan of action. During an Arbor Week celebration, the committee established a tree nursery, planted trees, and turned a local park into an outdoor classroom for local school children.

The Town of Corinna was once home to a large woolen mill that, when removed, left polluted soil and water in its wake. The site of the former mill is now classified as an EPA Superfund site. The town and the EPA are in the middle of a massive remediation effort that, with the formation a Project Canopy committee, now includes recreation trails and newly planted trees in parks and green spaces.

The School Tree Education Mastery (STEM) Program in Bath, ME, involves and educates youth about the environment and the benefits of trees in urban settings. Sponsored by the Bath Community Forestry Committee and the Bath Department of Cemeteries and Parks, STEM resulted in 100 students from local middle and high schools completing an inventory of 270 public trees. Beyond assisting the town and gaining students a better understanding of the role trees play in their environment, this program also furthered the incorporation of natural science subject matter in school curricula. The Town of Washburn brought together municipal leaders, citizens, and school students to plant trees in two town parks. Volunteers learned



High school students conduct tree inventory in Bath.

proper planting and tree care techniques, and a brochure was produced that serves as a guide for residents visiting the parks and a learning tool for students.

### Statistical Highlights

Number of participating communities: 179  
Number of communities assisted: 133  
Number of days of volunteer assistance to program: 2,196  
Number of trees planted: 1,506  
Number of Tree City USA communities: 11

### Contact

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