

## New York

### Program Overview

New York is a large and diverse State, both in its land mass and population. It is rural in nature, but more than 18 million people live on its 30 million acres. The Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) continues to train more communities, agencies, nonprofit groups, and citizens to understand U&CF and assume increasing responsibility for tracking and managing resources. By taking a more central role in monitoring and managing resources, communities develop more self-confidence and continuity in program staff and make more timely and effective management decisions. The program coordinator works with DEC foresters in each of nine regions to help deliver technical assistance and training. A community grants program funds projects to help develop sustainable programs at the local level. The FY 2002 DEC grant program funded community projects to protect municipal trees and forests and to foster partnerships, engage volunteers, and heighten awareness of the importance of trees.

### Program Accomplishments

Long Island ReLeaf provided support to nine schools for tree plantings and workshops. SpruceUp Workshops were held at Gotham Avenue Elementary School in Elmont and at the Student Garden Club in Captree. Students and teachers participated in the hands-on workshop where the proper procedure for tree planting was demonstrated. Thirty-one schools have completed 40 planting projects. EsteeLauder, LIPA, and Keyspan are annual supporters.

New York State continues to use Arbor Day to raise public awareness of the importance of tree planting and care. The FY 2002 State Arbor Day celebration was held at the Governor's Mansion in Albany, NY. The ceremony was hosted by Lieutenant Governor Mary Donohue and involved Department of Environmental Conservation Commissioner, Erin Crotty, who unveiled the New York State Arbor Day poster.

The State U&CF Council serves as the advisory group to the State program. The council is a nonprofit organization, and has a part-time executive director. There are 160 members total, with 28 people serving on the board of directors. Goals of the council include providing opportunities for networking between members and partners, and promoting best management practices for urban forestry through education. The council also publishes a statewide newsletter, *Taking Root*, three times per year.

NY ReLeaf and the U&CF Council partnered to present the 10th Annual U&CF Statewide Conference, "Reinventing New York's Forest-Creating Greener Communities." Although the decision to hold the statewide conference in New York City was made before the tragic events of September 11th, that fateful day



Trees New York has worked with New York DEC to replanting trees on properties impacted by the Asian Longhorned Beetle in the New York City area. (Grant-Trees New York.)



Trees planted in Brooklyn, NY, help to reestablish the canopy cover lost to the Asian Longhorned beetle. (Grant Trees New York.)

only reinforced the importance of trees, parks, and woodlands as places of solace in times of crisis.

### Statistical Highlights

Number of participating communities: 410  
Number of communities assisted: 368  
Number of days of volunteer assistance to program: 9,760  
Number of trees planted: 19,800  
Number of Tree City USA communities: 98

### Contact

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