

West Virginia

Program Overview

The West Virginia U&CF Program provides technical assistance to municipal governments in the long-term care of trees on public property. Three positions now comprise the urban forestry staff and deliver the program statewide. The program helps cities and towns develop guidelines for tree maintenance, form citizen-based tree boards, and advocate sustained tree care. Additional support is offered in the inventory and assessment of all public trees to help develop management plans to guide the efficient allocation of local staff and financial resources. The West Virginia U&CF Program helps communities develop these skills through training, educational material, and personal contacts, and also provides financial support.

Program Accomplishments

The U&CF Program produced several new educational and technical products in FY 2002. Examples include a *Trees for Cities and Communities* brochure, diagrammed planting instructions for volunteers participating in the National Tree Trust and Mountaineer Treeways programs, fact sheets for community tree boards covering many aspects of care, and workshop presentations on topics such as proper pruning techniques.

The program also provided technical assistance to the following eight cities and towns in the State's Eastern Panhandle: Bolivar, Charles Town, Harpers Ferry, Keyser, Martinsburg, Moorefield, Ranson, and Wardensville. These communities are at various levels of urban forestry program development, but share some common tree care needs such as significant conflicts between trees and utility lines. Municipal governments and electric utilities in this region of the State have forged new and stronger partnerships, resulting in agreements to replace large, declining trees under overhead utility lines.

As a result of program assistance, the town of Moorefield has a new tree board and is working on an ordinance requiring trees to be installed in newly established parking lots. In addition, an educational trail in Town Park received direct assistance in the removal of trees in hazardous condition.



West Virginia Division of Forestry, U&CF Program hosted many workshops in 2002, including this pruning workshop in Moorefield, WV.

The West Virginia U&CF Program's increased staff capacity will enable the program to address the complex urban forestry issues that the State faces. Those issues range from urban sprawl and development to proper tree care and advanced municipal tree ordinances.

Statistical Highlights

Number of participating communities: 51
Number of communities receiving assistance: 51
Number of hours of training provided: 128
Number of days of volunteer assistance to program: 210
Number of trees planted: 1,909
Number of Tree City USA communities: 13
Number of Tree City USA Growth Awards: 4

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