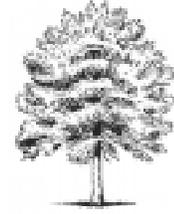


1998 USDA URBAN FORESTRY

NE Pennsylvania Urban Forestry Demonstration: Scranton, PA

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The Northeastern Pennsylvania Urban & Community Forestry Program (NEPA) is directed by the Center for Urban Forestry, Morris Arboretum of the University of Pennsylvania, in collaboration with the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources Bureau of Forestry. Since 1995, the program has successfully integrated ecological restoration with regional social and economic development by supporting partnership building activities, stewardship, and environmental awareness. The program's use of natural resources stewardship to promote regional vitality and quality of life has had a positive and lasting effect on the post-industrial metropolitan areas of Northeastern Pennsylvania.

Major accomplishments of the program are the integration of conservation and socioeconomic issues and the creation of diverse partners to implement urban forestry projects in six counties throughout Northeastern Pennsylvania. Between 1995 and 1998, 350 partners joined to complete 31 demonstration projects. A new funding cycle has provided 27 additional grants ranging from \$3,000 to \$500,000.

Accomplishments in 1998:

Integrating the economic and social revitalization of Northeastern Pennsylvania with natural resource stewardship.

Improving the ecological health of the region by planting approximately 4,000 trees, eradicating 17 stands of Japanese knotweed, and completing two riparian restoration projects.

Restoring 13 community parks and supporting two regional Rail-Trail projects.

Using 12,000 volunteer hours to complete 31 demonstration projects, utilizing 15 school districts to involve 300 students in forest stewardship activities.

Sponsoring community forestry and environmental training workshops for professionals and teachers attended by over 400 people.

Providing Tree Liability Grants to assess 1,361 urban trees, remove 391 hazardous trees, prune 394 dangerous trees, and replant 361 street trees in six communities. These numbers are expected to double upon completion of the 1998 Tree Liability projects.