

1998 USDA URBAN FORESTRY

Illinois

State Forester: Stewart Pequignot

Contact: Reinee Hildebrandt
Urban Conservation Program
Administrator

Division of Forest Resources

524 South Second Street

P.O. Box 19225

Springfield, IL 62794-9225

tel: (217) 782-2361

fax: (217) 785-5517

e-mail: rhildebrandt@dnrmail.state.il.us

<http://dnr.state.il.us/>

The Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR), Division of Forest Resources, Urban and Community Forestry Program has a goal of helping communities and urban areas sustain the health and integrity of their forest resources. The Program provides support to establish local urban forestry programs to plant trees on public land and nurture the health of all trees within the community.

Program Components

Technical Assistance

Workshops/Training

Tree City USA

Prairie Tree Companion Newsletter

Grant Assistance

Highlights

In 1997, Illinois remained second in the nation with **147 Tree City USA communities**. The state was ranked second with 45 Tree City USA Growth Awards given to communities surpassing the standard local forestry programs.

Grants from IDNR, matched with \$150,000 in local funding, helped **30 communities establish or enhance urban and community forestry programs**. Projects included 11 street tree inventories, five management plans, five public education projects, six tree planting projects, six tree care ordinances, five tree boards, and three tree risk management programs. Over 20 of the communities will subcontract with consultant foresters, use student internships, or provide adults with summer employment.

The Illinois Department of Transportation adopted tree replacement standards and a tree protection policy based on the **Natural Resources Conservation Services Illinois Urban Manual**. The manual, which describes methods of urban ecosystem protection and enhancements, is also available to other state agencies and communities.

Each year four issues of the *Prairie Tree Companion Newsletter* are distributed to over 3,000 municipalities, citizens, and government officials. It provides timely information on urban forestry management issues, gives technical updates, reports on program initiatives, and informs citizens of natural resources opportunities.

Over \$90,000 of funding was provided to a diverse group of urban forestry projects. These included the Chicago Parks District Stewardship Days, the Chicago Flower and Garden Show, a public service announcement promoting tree care, a community forestry video, staff positions, and a tree risk management workshops.

STATE ACHIEVEMENTS REPORT

The eight regional **Urban Forestry Councils** provided a range of technical assistance and outreach activities. They exhibited displays at regional events such as Bald Eagle Days, Symphony in Bloom, and Earth Month at Peoria Park Districts, and they developed a regional tree planting and selection guide.

The State Program helped citizens and local governments network with state and federal agencies to secure resources that address natural resource issues. For example, IDNR helped provide **8,000 seedlings from the National Tree Trust** to 19 government and non-profit groups.

IDNR created a position at Southern Illinois University to assist with volunteer coordination and provide technical assistance for the communities south of Interstate-70. Accomplishments include creating a web site listing Southern Illinois nurseries, certified arborists, and urban forestry resources, establishing a volunteer outreach program for conducting community tree inventories, providing a hands-on experience for Southern Illinois University forestry students, and facilitating urban forestry workshops.



Preschoolers from the youth center help Colonel Michael Wooley to plant a tree on Scott Air Force Base in honor of Arbor Day.

Federal Program Support		<i>Dollars in thousands</i>		
The State Program	<u>FY 1995</u>	<u>FY 1996</u>	<u>FY 1997</u>	<u>FY 1998</u>
	377.5	438.8	541.9	364.9