

# 1998 USDA URBAN FORESTRY

## Indiana

State Forester: Burney Fischer

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Urban trees and forests provide many psychological and economic benefits which improve the standard of living for Indiana's citizens. The Indiana Urban and Community Forestry (U&CF) Program is dedicated to promoting urban forestry by nurturing activities at the local level.

### Program Components

Technical Assistance  
Public Awareness  
Partnerships  
Funding  
Transferring Expertise to Professionals

### Highlights

The U&CF Program distributed both federal and state funding to communities. The **Hometown Indiana Program** awarded \$381,230 in state funding to 31 Hometown Indiana Grantees for tree planting projects and program development activities. The federal assistance provided \$183,000 to fund Arbor Day projects and to develop community forestry programs.

State Forester Burney Fischer and Volunteer Coordinator Pam Louks traveled throughout the state to present **Tree City USA** awards to 18 cities and towns, including four new Tree City USAs.

The U&CF Program continued to form new partnerships. A pilot project with groups in Marion County called **Trees for Furniture** will set up a process to produce wood products from urban tree removal. A new partnership with the **Indiana Cemeteries Association** will lead to an assessment of the value of cemeteries as urban green space.

**A partnership with the Historic Landmarks Foundation** was established to assist urban forestry projects at sites with historical significance. A tree replacement plan was created for a road-widening project along historic U.S. Route 40 in the Town of Cumberland. A tree management plan was developed for the state historic site, Verestau.

The U&CF Program provided several forums for information dissemination. The biannual **Indiana Green Streets** newsletter was distributed to over 4,000 cities and towns, non-profit organizations, and citizens. Ten workshops were held including Hazard Tree Evaluation, Grant Writing, the Tree Line Regional Conference, the Indiana Arborists Association annual conference, and Basic Tree Care in **Madison, Indianapolis, and Plymouth**.

A grant program was initiated to fund county Tree Steward Programs. Similar to Master Gardeners, Tree Stewards attend seven training sessions on tree planting and care, and then volunteer their expertise in their communities.

# STATE ACHIEVEMENTS REPORT

At the request of the First Lady, the Governor's residence was used as an urban forestry demonstration site. A tree inventory and management plan was completed, and Asplundh Tree Experts and the Indiana Arborists Association donated their services to prune trees. **Governor and Mrs. O'Bannon opened their property for the Community Forest Festival** to demonstrate urban forestry activities, present Tree City USA awards, and promote urban wood utilization. Hazardous trees were removed from the property, and school wood shops throughout the state returned finished wood products to the Governor.

The **Town of English** was relocated from the floodplain to an undeveloped area because of perpetual flooding. Since the town was created anew, an urban forestry plan could be developed at the same time as the development of the town.

**Indianapolis Beautiful** was assisted with two projects planting 180 donated trees at schools. The teachers, who received Project Learning Tree training, and their students continued to beautify the school grounds with other plantings.



Governor and Mrs. O'Bannon demonstrate their interest in urban forestry.

<b>Federal Program Support</b>		<i>Dollars in thousands</i>		
<b>The State Program</b>	<b><u>FY 1995</u></b>	<b><u>FY 1996</u></b>	<b><u>FY 1997</u></b>	<b><u>FY 1998</u></b>
	272.1	299.3	275.2	261.3