

1998 USDA URBAN FORESTRY

Maine

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This year one major event profoundly impacted urban forestry in Maine - the January ice storm. Although the storm devastated the tree resources in many Maine communities, it generated a renewed awareness of the value of urban trees and town forests.

Program Components

Tree Planting
Education
Technical Assistance
Partnerships

Highlights

The **Pine Tree State Arboretum** works in partnership with the Maine Forest Service to distribute technical and planning assistance to volunteer groups, municipalities, grass roots organizations, and citizens involved in community forestry programs. This year workshops were conducted on grant writing, municipal tree ordinances, tree health and maintenance, and nursery stock selection and planting. The arboretum also provided Maine's citizens with urban forestry information in a quarterly newsletter distributed to 1,500 people and on their web site, as well as at outreach events with the Maine Arborist Association, Maine Pomological Society, Maine Garden Day, and various other Arbor Week Activities.

The tremendous support for the urban forestry program in the **Town of Union** was evident in the \$10,086 in matching funds raised for a \$2,888 grant. A tree nursery was established to grow future planting stock. Students, teachers, and the parent-teachers association, in partnership with the Maine Conservation Corps, created a one-mile self-guided tree trail on school property. The students continue to learn from the project by maintaining tree journals.

In the **City of Belfast** urban forestry means protecting its tree resources and teaching children to be community stewards. Local volunteers participated in the Belfast Heritage Tree Day by planting trees. A public tree resource report was produced which included a tree planting plan, a review and reevaluation of the previous tree inventories, and recommendations for a town tree ordinance. Twenty-five Young Citizen and Junior Citizen Tree Stewards were given instruction in tree identification, tree care, tree planting, and citizen participation with many adopting a tree.

The **University of Southern Maine at Portland** created a slide show and held workshops describing how to conduct logging operations around cultural resources such as old farm sites, stone walls, granite mines, old mill sites, and other historic areas found in woodlands.

A videotape was developed at **Southern Maine Technical College** concerning the plight of urban and community trees. The videotape, which chronicles the life and death of a typical urban tree, shows the causes of shortened tree life and provides information about the care of young trees.

STATE ACHIEVEMENTS REPORT

The **L.C. Bates Museum**, on the grounds on the Good-Will-Hinckley School, began to rejuvenate the arboretum on its grounds by creating an advisory board, surveying the existing trees, and formulating a plan for future planting. A maintenance plan was developed for each tree, and it will be implemented by students and volunteers. In addition, 37 children and volunteers assisted in the hand planting of 58 new trees and shrubs. The museum also has developed training programs for teachers as well as educational activities for students using 12 outdoor urban forestry sites.

The students in grades 6-8 in the **Town of Millbridge** constructed a half-mile walking trail with interpretive signs for use by students and residents. The student ownership of this project has resulted in no vandalism in any part of the forest. With the help of the Dirtgrubbers Garden Club and town employees, they removed litter, chipped brush, and hauled chips to smooth the trail.



Students at the Good-Will-Hinckley School eagerly planting trees

Federal Program Support

Dollars in thousands

The State Program	<u>FY 1995</u>	<u>FY 1996</u>	<u>FY 1997</u>	<u>FY 1998</u>
	192.0	230.5	336.4	2,289.9*

*Includes \$2,084,000 in Ice Storm funds