

1998 USDA URBAN FORESTRY

New Jersey

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New Jersey is the most densely populated state in the nation, and the population continues to increase. The New Jersey Community Forestry Program strives to address the specific risks and broad challenges that threaten urban forests and the overall health of New Jersey's environment.

Program Components

Partnerships
Technical Assistance
Research
Legislation
Education
Grants

Highlights

In 1998, the New Jersey Community Forestry Program received a **National Arbor Day Award** from the National Arbor Day Foundation. The State Program was recognized for its work in advancing urban and community forestry through the passage of the **New Jersey Shade Tree and Community Forestry Assistance Act**.

The **Green Communities Grant Program** provided \$130,000 in grants to 65 towns and three counties to create community forestry management plans. These plans will insure the town's commitment to develop a long-term and proactive approach to urban forestry.

New Jersey led the nation with the recognition of 11 new **Tree City USAs**. In the last five years the number of Tree City USAs has increased an average of 13% a year to a total of 96 in the state.

The "**Community Forestry Update**" **newsletter** was initiated to communicate opportunities and issues in community forestry to the state's residents and over 2,500 policy makers. An expanded 42-page booklet about **New Jersey's Big Trees** was developed in response to increased public interest in the state's "Green Giants."

This year, the largest group of individuals since the program's inception passed the **Certified Tree Experts (CTE)** exam. This six-hour test, considered the most difficult certification exam in the country, is comprised of written and field sections. This accomplishment is an indication of the growth and success of the CTE program and the high standards throughout the state.

The Jersey City Urban Forestry Project was developed to **assess the effects of urban trees on air quality**. The baseline data from this study will be used to develop a model to quantify the benefits of the urban forest in terms of the removal of toxins and pollutants, tree cover, and carbon storage.

STATE ACHIEVEMENTS REPORT

As the only legislatively created Community Forestry Council in the nation, the **New Jersey Community Forestry Council** continued its outreach to local units of government. The council helped to develop local management plan standards and established the Core Training Curriculum as part of a statewide training skills program. To stress the importance of long-term training and up-to-date information, the Council also developed a continuing educational unit requirement. This training should help reduce towns' tree litigation.

The New Jersey Community Forestry Council and the Community Forestry Program developed a marketing strategy, **Celebrate Arbor Day New Jersey**, to promote Arbor Day celebrations. This progressive initiative encouraged participation by the public and partners and provided opportunities for media coverage at the state and local levels. The strategy's five components are the State Arbor Day Celebration, Celebrate Arbor Day NJ - "Count Us In," the Arbor Day Children's Contest, Proclaim Arbor Day New Jersey, and an Arbor Day Activity Guide.



Enjoying the trees on the grounds of the State Library in Trenton

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>
	746.1	633.4	314.1	289.9