

1998 USDA URBAN FORESTRY

Ohio

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Ohio's Urban Forestry Program is dedicated to the idea that urban forest benefits are only realized when communities commit to managing their public and private trees. The rapport that state urban foresters develop with participating communities is a critical factor in helping municipalities progress from awareness to commitment to action.

Program Components

Direct Community Assistance
Information Facilitation
Grant Program

Highlights

For the 16th consecutive year **Ohio led the nation in the number of designated Tree City USA communities.** These 212 cities and villages demonstrated their commitment to managing local resources, as well as the effectiveness of the State Program's mission. With help developing and strengthening comprehensive tree care programs, these communities were able to plant twice as many trees as were removed while maintaining over twice the number of trees planted.

A partnership with the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency and the Ohio Attorney General's Office produced \$110,000 in grants from air pollution fines for several tree planting efforts across the state.

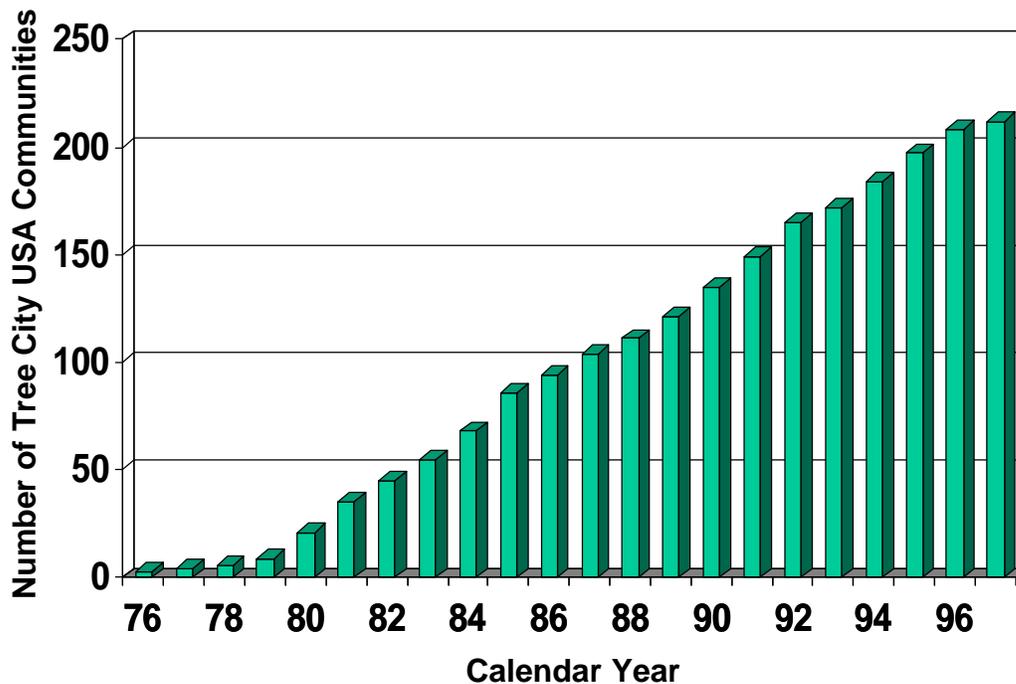
Over 3,500 seat hours of urban forestry educational programs were provided to community officials, city foresters, shade tree commission members, and allied agencies. Each of Ohio's six urban foresters hosted a regional conference to disseminate information to local communities in their quest to manage their resources efficiently and effectively. Additionally, a statewide symposium was co-hosted with Ohio State University exclusively for Ohio's city foresters.

Thanks to funds provided by the USDA Forest Service's Forest Health Program, the Division of Forestry cooperated with Ohio State University on a significant **Street Tree Evaluation Project (STEP)**. Utilizing a quarter century of data collection, STEP examined how selected urban plantings performed over several decades. The purposes were to aid in selecting the most useful trees for various environmental conditions and to show how trees affect street character over time.

"Ohio's Urban Forestry Program remains successful by providing the organizational and technical assistance communities require to address local needs."

STATE ACHIEVEMENTS REPORT

Tree City USA - OHIO 1976-1997



The Tree City USA graph indicates the influence of state assistance. Substantial growth in the number of designated Tree City USA communities occurred only after the initiation of Ohio's Urban Forestry Program in 1979.

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>
	530.6	418.5	375.2	369.9