

1998 USDA URBAN FORESTRY

Pennsylvania

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The Pennsylvania Urban Forestry Program provides the means and resources to establish and maintain the urban forest in communities across the state. This assistance beautifies communities and elevates the pride and level of involvement of Pennsylvania residents.

Program Components

Workshops and Conferences
Technical Assistance
Grant Aid
Tree Programs

Highlights

The extension urban forester, with faculty from the College of Agriculture at Penn State University, participated in a pilot **community-based environmental education project in Allegheny Township**. A series of meetings were held with the goal of increasing citizen participation in the decision-making process. Steps included community issue analysis, values clarification and visioning. By building capacity for collaborative decision making and institutionalizing the process, the quality of life will be enhanced for all citizens in the community.

A \$44,000 grant from The William Penn Foundation assisted 33 communities in southeastern Pennsylvania through **Community Tree Stewards Training**. Four new shade tree commissions were formed, four inventories were conducted, a management plan was written, a non-profit volunteer organization was formed, and 400 trees were planted.

Membership in the **Southeast Pennsylvania Community Tree Association** increased from 50 to 80. Advanced workshops were held on pruning woody plants, conducting a tree tender program, and detecting hazardous trees. The 174 attendees of the **“Natural Habitats: Creating and Maintaining Commercial and Public Landscapes” workshop** learned how to create natural habitats.

The Pennsylvania College of Technology’s Forestry Department and **the City of Williamsport undertook an inventory of the city’s trees on 110 miles of street**. This inventory provided needed information and the impetus to embark on the first phase of the Hazardous Tree Project. With in-kind contributions from the Street and Parks Department and the Pennsylvania Power and Light Company, 135 hazardous trees were removed. The second phase of the project, with a \$20,000 federal grant, will replace an additional 100 hazardous trees with appropriate species.

STATE ACHIEVEMENTS REPORT

The Extension Urban Forestry Program, in cooperation with the Natural Lands Trust, provided nine “**Growing Greener**” workshops for 300 planners. The participants received information on conservation subdivision design and how to include the natural environment into zoning, subdivision, and other ordinances.

A former fly ash landfill near **Meadville** is being redeveloped for recreational, industrial, and educational uses. This 173 acre brownfield site provides a riparian nature trail, space for growing trees in a community nursery, an outreach education center, and restoration demonstration area as well as the Crawford County Industrial Park.



A Pennsylvania community tree planting

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>
	512.1	629.5	569.4	649.5