

1998 USDA URBAN FORESTRY

Rhode Island

State Forester: Thomas Dupree

Contact: Bruce Payton
**Urban and Community Forestry Program
Coordinator**

Division of Forest Environment

RIDEM

1037 Hartford Pike

North Scituate, RI 02857

tel: (401) 647-3367

fax: (401) 647-3590

e-mail: rifostry@edgenet.net

Communities throughout Rhode Island have embraced the Urban & Community Forestry Program to restore and maintain their green infrastructure. These communities have demonstrated their commitment to urban forestry by matching the grants they have received with their own funds on a two to one basis.

Program Components

Technical Assistance

Tree Planting

Financial Support

Partnerships

Highlights

Over **6,000 trees** have been planted in the last five years with funding from America the Beautiful and Small Business Administration Tree Planting Grants. These grant programs, administered by the Urban and Community Forestry Program Coordinator, have provided almost \$1,000,000 in funds which have been matched by an additional \$1,300,000 during this period. In addition to tree planting, the funds have supported educational opportunities, tree maintenance and inventories, and the Rhode Island Tree Council (RITC).

Trees for Local Communities, an idea borrowed from the Vermont Urban and Community Forestry Program, provides small grants to communities to increase awareness of urban and community forestry. Project funding has been used for Arbor Day celebrations, seed money to start local tree advocacy groups, and brochures to educate the public on the benefits of trees. Local workshops on tree pruning and planting, development of tree identification trails, and small beautification planting projects have also been funded. Many small contributions from local groups and volunteers have increased the effectiveness of this program. This project has been an excellent promotional campaign that also helps provide funding to grass roots organizations.



Glocester Town Council President, Paul Fogerty, digs in to celebrate Arbor Day.

STATE ACHIEVEMENTS REPORT

The GreenShare Program, Arborist Project, a partnership among the University of Rhode Island (URI), the Division of Forest Environment, and the Green Industry, provided scientifically accurate and environmentally sound information to landscape professionals. The Arborist Project expanded the original GreenShare program to provide certification and reference materials to professionals in a single training program. In the past two years 200 people have attended the GreenShares training workshops which have focused on integrated pest management and sustainable landscaping. Combining the Arborist Project at the same location with the Learning Landscape and the Sustainable Landscape gardens at URI has facilitated education opportunities for professionals and homeowners.

Citizens of South Kingstown formed an advocacy group for trees, the **Advisory Council on Trees for South Kingstown (ACTSK)**, to protect the town's tree resources. ACTSK pushed the town to conduct an inventory of the street trees. The results will be compared to a volunteer street tree inventory produced with the assistance of the state, URI, and the Northeast Center for Urban and Community Forestry. ACTSK is now working with the Town Council to pass a Town Tree Ordinance and has developed a tree awareness program for specimen trees. The awareness program has drawn enormous press coverage and a positive community response. The RITC hopes to duplicate ACTSK's citizen activism in every other Rhode Island community.



Professionals learning urban forestry techniques as part of the GreenShare Program, Arborist Project

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>
	212.4	170.7	204.3	163.1