

# 1998 USDA URBAN FORESTRY

## **West Virginia**

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The West Virginia Urban and Community Forestry Program continued to make community leaders and citizens aware of the importance of the urban ecosystem. The State Program conveyed this message through personal contact and assistance to communities and associated groups throughout the state.

### **Program Components**

Awareness  
Promotion  
Technical Assistance  
Volunteer Participation

### **Highlights**

In FY 1998, a total of 3,710 trees were planted and 103 communities were assisted by the State Program. In addition, 14 cities received Tree City USA status.

Thirty-one **Demonstration City Grants** were awarded with \$80,672 in federal support. These funds leveraged an additional \$119,579 from local recipients. Communities benefited from the planting of 830 trees and 483 shrubs, the elimination of over 130 hazard trees, the creation of three outdoor classrooms, and the development of inventories and management plans.

The **City of Morgantown** continued its citywide tree inventory in order to develop a management plan for street trees. The tree board organized community tree plantings, developed a tree ordinance, began a hazard tree program, and continued to educate residents.

The **City of Buckhannon** developed a professional inventory and management plan with its Demonstration City Grant. The tree-care budget was then optimized for removals, maintenance, and planting. In addition, the financial investment enhanced public awareness and volunteer capacity in the community.

The **Town of Ceredo** invested in future tree establishment by constructing a municipal nursery on an abandoned city lot with its Demonstration City Grant. Because it can now grow quality trees from seedlings, the town can allocate funds for maintenance and public outreach programs. In the future the city will be able to provide trees to surrounding communities.

This year the 35 participants in National Tree Trust **community tree planting projects** included garden clubs, schools, youth clubs, sports organizations, action groups and small communities. Over 600 volunteers planted a total of 2,880 seedlings after leveraging \$9,178 in local donations. These projects, in conjunction with community outreach, conservation education, and volunteer efforts, will produce long term social, economic, and environmental benefits.

# STATE ACHIEVEMENTS REPORT

Education and training were a major focus of the State Program. At 16 workshops across the state, 360 people were trained in tree maintenance techniques. In addition, the State Program began teaching urban forestry at the West Virginia Environmental Studies School.

The **Urban and Community Forestry Council** experienced tremendous growth this year. Bylaws were adopted and officers were elected. Working groups tackled issues and projects concerning outreach, recruitment, legal concerns, Arbor Day programs, publicity, and Demonstration City Grants. A new community forestry newsletter published its first issue.



The Urban Forestry Coordinator presents the Tree City USA award to the mayor of Morgantown, Charlene Marshall, and other city officials at an Arbor Day tree planting ceremony.

<b>Federal Program Support</b>		<i>Dollars in thousands</i>		
<b>The State Program</b>	<b><u>FY 1995</u></b>	<b><u>FY 1996</u></b>	<b><u>FY 1997</u></b>	<b><u>FY 1998</u></b>
	226.0	242.5	229.1	220.6