

Indiana

Program Overview

The Community and Urban Forestry (C&UF) Program provides statewide leadership to increase public awareness of the value of trees and associated natural resources in urban areas, where more than 70 percent of Indiana citizens live. The program assists and encourages Indiana communities and volunteers to protect, expand, and improve community forests. The program strives to help citizens make the connection between rural and urban forests, and to incorporate the ideology that the urban forest is part of the community infrastructure.



Program Accomplishments

In addition to conducting our regular grant program, we awarded special project grants to Keep Indianapolis Beautiful (KIB), and to the Indiana Arborist Association (IAA). KIB used the funding to produce radio spots and to pay for specific internet advertising regarding the benefits of urban forestry. The spots were on two popular radio stations during the morning commute. KIB also initiated a riparian tree-planting project at Chapel Glen School. The entire school participated in the effort. The IAA hosted and financially sponsored 60 certified arborists to complete ArborMaster training.



C&UF organized People and Trees—A Festival of Growth at the Governor's residence. The event attracted more than 500 people and included the IAA Tree Climbing Jamboree; a wood utilization demonstration by crafters; Wood-Mizer sawmill demonstration with seven industrial arts high school classes; and the Tree City USA awards event. Governor and Mrs. O'Bannon spent the entire day outdoors visiting with the 500 guests. In addition, they presented the Tree City USA awards to each Tree City USA community, posed for photos with them, and spent time visiting with individuals from each Tree City USA community present.

C&UF hosted the Northeastern Area Association of State Foresters (NAASF) annual summer meeting with the goal of demonstrating the links between traditional and urban forestry. The meeting was held in downtown Indianapolis, and a day-long bus tour was included, which highlighted urban projects that had traditional forestry values. The bus tour featured discussion with two city foresters: Jason Kissel of Indianapolis and Lee Huss of Bloomington. The tour included stops at an urban wood utilization project called 'Trees to Furniture,' where the log yard was highlighted, and White River, where the group viewed an urban flood plain reclamation area. The group also visited Holliday Park Nature Center and Ft. Harrison State Park, two popular urban forests in and around Indianapolis. Not only did NAASF members and their guests learn more about the potential link between urban forestry and traditional forestry projects, but Division of Forestry staff learned more about the C&UF.

Statistical Highlights

Number of participating communities: 453
Number of communities assisted: 404
Number of hours of training provided: 176
Number of days of volunteer assistance to program: 118,050
Number of trees planted: 6,270
Number of Tree City USA communities: 45
Number of Tree City USA Growth Awards: 10

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