

Urban and Community Forestry Program 2017 Accomplishment Report – Minnesota

State Contact

Ken Holman
Program Coordinator
Minnesota Department of Natural Resources
Box 44, 500 Lafayette Road
St. Paul, MN 55155
Phone: 651-259-5269
Fax: 651-296-5954
E-mail: ken.holman@dnr.state.mn.us
Website:
<http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/forestry/urban/index.html>
<http://www.mnstac.org>

State Forester

Forrest Boe
Division of Forestry
Minnesota Department of Natural Resources
500 Lafayette Road
St. Paul, MN 55155
Phone: 651-259-5300
Fax: 651-296-5954
E-mail: forrest.boe@dnr.state.mn.us
Website: <http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/forestry/>

Introduction

Urban and Community Forestry in Minnesota is a statewide collaboration that unites many agencies, organizations, communities, decisionmakers, and citizens throughout the State. The challenges we have identified are:

- Minnesota communities need better access to expertise, training, current technology, research, and technical assistance.
- Heightened political awareness and support for State funding initiatives.
- Increased partnerships among communities in greater Minnesota.
- Loss of forest land to urbanization, disease, and insects.
- Lack of vision for sustainable community design and ecosystem approaches.

Key Accomplishments

Youth and Professionals: Programs and Workshops

During the summer of 2017, the Urban Forestry Outreach Research and Extension (U-Fore) lab hosted 123 school-age children between the ages of 5 and 15 in 1-day tree awareness events. Activities included increment coring and aging trees, tree identification, and rope and saddle tree climbing classes. U-Fore also hosted three workshops for practicing professionals and municipal arborists on developmental pruning of trees. A total of 75 people attended the all-day workshop.

Tree Care Advisors at the Minnesota State Fair

For the third year in a row, Minnesota Tree Care Advisors (a volunteer program in urban forestry) contributed more than 200 hours, answering questions about tree selection, care, and diagnostics as part of the Eco-Experience building and exhibit hall at the Minnesota State Fair.

Minnesota Tree Inspector Certification and Recertification Workshops

Minnesota now has almost 1,200 Certified Tree Inspectors as employees or volunteers throughout the State. These tree inspectors are the direct links among communities, the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, and the University of Minnesota to bring the best tree care information to the public based on current and developing issues. A total of four statewide certification and recertification workshops were held in 2017.



More than 3,100 State Fair contacts with individuals and their questions were documented as well as four stage presentations on edible landscape plants, diagnosing tree problems, best planting practices, and pruning young trees.



Two mentors and two youth review safe climbing practices at one of the summer tree awareness classes.



A summer tree awareness class participant reached new heights in her outdoor training and education.



People take part in a Duluth workshop on developmental pruning of trees.

More than 200 volunteers representing more than 20 communities throughout Minnesota attended training workshops that covered tree inventory and the Citizen Pruner and Tree Steward programs.



Tree Care Advisors participate in one of the weekly Tree Essential classes on best practices.



Tree Inspectors learn from a demonstration of tree injection “best practices” during a recertification workshop in Rochester.

Statistical Highlights

Managing Communities:	122
Developing Communities:	146
Population of Participating Communities:	3,920,920
Volunteer Assistance Generated (hours):	39,458

