

Urban and Community Forestry Program

2016 Accomplishment Report – Minnesota

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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 the following:

- Minnesota communities need better access to expertise, training, current technology, research, and technical assistance
- Heightened political awareness of 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

Arbor Month “Get Your Daily Dose of Trees for a Healthy You and Me” Campaign

Minnesota’s Arbor Month Advisory Committee (AMAC) and Department of Natural Resources (DNR) developed an infographic poster, 2-minute video, and social media campaign on the health benefits of trees. The 2016 Arbor Month theme was “Get your daily dose of trees for a healthy you and me.” The infographic poster and video were released and promoted to 6,000 individuals in the health and natural resources fields. The Minnesota DNR partnered with the city of Rochester to celebrate Arbor Day where over 1,500 third to fifth grade students attended.



GET YOUR DAILY DOSE OF TREES
for a healthy you and me

The University of Minnesota – Rochester's Connect professional speaker series also helped the AMAC celebrate Arbor Month by providing free lectures on the health benefits of trees. The schedule with topics is below. Recordings of these presentations are online for viewing at the [Arbor Month Web site](#).

May 3—Designing Landscapes for a Healthier You

Jeff Feece, Landscape Architect with Sargent's Gardens, provides ways to create outdoor spaces to make a closer relationship with nature for a healthier life.

May 10—The Most Important Machine of All

Dr. Jim Maher, Career Scientist with the Mayo Clinic, discusses how a nano machine in the leaves of every living tree and plant takes carbon dioxide from the air and uses light energy to turn it into sugar.

May 17—City Trees and Green Space Are Health Determinants: A Review of Evidence and Values

Dr. Kathleen Wolf, Social Scientist with the University of Washington, examines evidence on how nearby nature contributes to disease prevention and health promotion.

May 24—Complex Answers to Simple Questions

Eric North, Research Fellow and Instructor with the University of Minnesota, will use a mix of entertainment and science to explore the complexity of trees.

May 31—i-Tree: Assessing and Sustaining the Public Health Benefits of Trees

Dr. Jason Henning, Research Urban Forester with Davey Institute, shows how to apply i-Tree software to understand relationships among trees, people, and public health to improve communities.

The campaign has been well received by local and even national partners. As a result, the AMAC and DNR are expanding the campaign distribution efforts through 2017. Visit the [Arbor Month Web site](#) for details.

Statistical Highlights

Managing Communities:	115
Developing Communities:	80
Population of Participating Communities:	3,648,466
Volunteer Assistance Generated (hours):	61,482

