

MINNESOTA Shade Tree Advocate

Speaking Out For *Community Forests*

VOL. 1, NO. 4 • SPECIAL ISSUE
JANUARY 1999

Special Legislative Issue

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The Minnesota Shade Tree Advisory Committee's mission is to advance Minnesota's commitment to the health, care and future of all community forests.

Your Town, Your Legislators and Your Trees . . .

Do They Know Each Other?

Trees and legislators, legislators and trees. Not exactly something you think about very often, yet the combination probably touches your life every day. From taxes for government services to trees on your streets and in your parks, they go together. It's a fact of urban and community forestry. We need trees and we need legislators to help us keep and manage our trees. In fact, legislators and trees are what spawned the birth of MnSTAC in the first place.

MnSTAC, our state urban forestry council, started in 1974 when a group of tree professionals and citizens demanded action at the state level to do something about Dutch elm disease. It was through their lobbying efforts that Minnesota funded Dutch elm disease management and replanting throughout the state from 1977 through 1982. This small group recognized early on that trees were not just a local blessing, but that they played an important role in the infrastructure of the state's ecosystem. What happens in Red Wing when a moth larvae starts eating leaves can, does and will affect trees in Moorhead and Duluth.

Through the years, MnSTAC has grown into a diverse group of private citizens, city foresters, landscape architects, Department representatives, University specialists and a host of other tree-related professionals. Activities that were once metro-based have expanded to encompass the entire state.

It's clear that people need trees, legislators need people and trees need legislators. The question is, "How do trees, legislators and MnSTAC fit together in 1999 and beyond?" To put it in perspective—this is where the L'Etoile du Nord hits the duff of the MnSTAC forest floor: The Legislative Committee of MnSTAC.

To effectively promote the long-range maintenance of our state's tree base, MnSTAC formed a legislative

Inside . . . MnSTAC's Report to the 1999 Legislature



MINNEAPOLIS PARK AND RECREATION BOARD

*Planting and
Caring for
Community Trees:
Together, We
Can Do It*

Town, Legislators, Trees continued on p. 5

FEMA

A Partner in Need; Not the Total Solution

Prior to the floods of 1997 and the wind storms of 1998, many Minnesotans did not know what “FEMA” is or how it may move in to assist a community following a natural disaster. For many, repeatedly hearing that FEMA trailers were providing temporary housing for disaster victims was the first introduction to the agency.

Today name recognition is better, but even local officials and residents in communities that have received FEMA support are sometimes unsure about what can be expected in terms of disaster relief. Each situation is unique.

FEMA stands for Federal Emergency Management Agency. The agency is most highly visible in its response functions. Through management assistance, on-site support and specific types of funding, FEMA helps individuals and communities clean up and recover following emergencies.

To be eligible for FEMA funds, the President of the United States must declare a federal disaster. FEMA representatives are quickly dispatched to the disaster site to make initial assessments. Information gathered in their Preliminary Damage Assessment helps determine whether or not the President makes such a declaration.

Local damage may be devastating and yet not be declared a federal disaster. But even if a federal disaster is declared, it's important that communities know beforehand about FEMA's limitations. A realistic tree emergency response plan needs to include resources to cover situations that will not be covered by FEMA or other emergency sources. Successful disaster recovery depends on having these resources in place well before any disaster strikes. FEMA disaster assistance typically covers up to 75% of its eligible costs, with state and local governments splitting the rest.

FEMA generally helps cover costs for clean-up and repair of trees on public property posing health or safety dangers, and trees that threaten public property. Depending on the type and extent of the storm and other circumstances, this may include some clean-up of hazardous trees on private property. The city, for example, would have to hire a private contractor to handle this work rather than using their own work crews. Because FEMA support in dealing with trees on private property depends on each

... tree replacement is no longer covered using FEMA public assistance funds.



FEMA continued on p. 7

Minnesota Shade Tree Advisory Committee

CATEGORIES

—AWARD PLAQUES

(up to one award may be given in each category)

■ Outstanding Volunteer Project

Awarded to an individual volunteer or volunteer group that has organized and implemented the most innovative and successful project actively involving volunteers.

■ Outstanding Youth Project

Awarded to an individual youth, school class or youth group that has organized and implemented the most notable youth project.

Recipient of this award must be under 19 years age, a class in a K-12 school or a group with membership limited to persons less than 19 years old.

■ Outstanding Partnership

Awarded to organizations and/or individuals that have jointly implemented a project that demonstrates a high level of cooperative spirit and effort.

Organizations may include non-profits, corporations, governmental units, etc.

■ Outstanding Arbor Day/Arbor Month Celebration

Awarded to the community and/or school that has organized the celebration that best commemorates and furthers the Arbor Day ideal.

■ Outstanding Community Forestry Maintenance

Awarded to the individual or organization that has implemented the most exemplary ongoing comprehensive maintenance program for the trees under their jurisdiction.

Organizations may include non-profits, corporations, governmental units, homeowners associations, property management companies or others responsible for tree care.

1998 Awards Program

■ Distinguished Service Award

Awarded to the MnSTAC member who has contributed most significantly to urban and community forestry on behalf of MnSTAC.

Recipient must have been a MnSTAC member at the time the service was done.

■ Tree Care Advisor of the Year

Awarded to an individual Tree Care Advisor who has contributed most significantly to urban and community forestry through community service work.

Recipient must have completed the Minnesota Extension Service Tree Care Advisor Program prior to doing the community service being recognized.

■ Special Merit Award

Awarded to an individual or organization for unique exemplary achievements in community forestry serving as an innovative model for other programs.

This award may be given to initiatives that do not readily fall into one of the other categories.

—CERTIFICATES OF RECOGNITION

(multiple awards may be given in each category)

■ Achievement Certificate

Awarded to individuals and/or groups to acknowledge the implementation of projects that significantly contribute to their community forest.

■ Sponsorship Certificate

Awarded to individuals, corporations, organizations and/or foundations to acknowledge their generous financial support and sponsorship of volunteer projects.

■ Stewardship Certificate

Awarded to individual employees and/or governmental entities that have demonstrated responsible urban forest management decisions and practices.

Governmental entities may include a local, state or other unit of govern-

ment, a governmental agency, a governmental board, etc.

■ Media Certificate

Awarded to individuals and/or media organizations whose articles, publications, coverage and/or other publicity has significantly increased public awareness of community forestry and promoted public support of community and urban forestry efforts within the state.

ELIGIBILITY

To be eligible the activity, project, or program must:

- be implemented within the state of Minnesota, and
- focus on the planting, preservation, protection and/or care of community forests and trees.

JUDGING AND AWARDS

A panel of judges representing state and local government, business, non-profits and citizen groups will evaluate the entries and select award winners in early March. Awards may not be made in every category. Award recipients will be notified by mail in mid-March. The Awards will be presented at the statewide Tree City USA luncheon on April 1, 1999. MnSTAC members may also be available to present individual awards at local presentation ceremonies.

QUESTIONS?

For more information on the MnSTAC Awards Program, please contact Terri Goodfellow-Heyer, 651/643-3601 or 1-800/676-6747

For more information on MnSTAC activities, please contact Ken Holman, MN State Urban & Community Forestry, DNR Forestry, 651/772-7562.

ENTRY PROCEDURE

Only those entries submitted in accordance with these guidelines will be judged. Entry materials will not be returned.

The Minnesota Shade Tree Advisory Committee (MnSTAC) announces its 1998 statewide awards program to recognize exemplary community tree initiatives. Projects and activities of individuals, organizations, corporations and governmental units will be honored that are outstanding in preserving, protecting, expanding and improving forests and trees in Minnesota communities.

■ Complete the MnSTAC 1998 Award Nomination Form.

Please mark the appropriate categories in which your nomination should be judged.

■ Submit a one-page Project Summary.

This should include brief statements on the project's background, intended purpose, plan of action, implementation activities, budget and funding sources, positive results and its impact on the community forest. The judges' screening of submissions is based solely on the "Project Summary" and supporting documentation. Please be concise yet give sufficient detail.

■ Provide Supporting Documentation.

Enclose with your nomination supporting information in 8-1/2" x 11" loose-leaf, clear plastic pages (e.g. full page, photo album, and/or slide sleeves). Such documentation may include:

- proclamations or resolutions supporting the project,
- press clippings or other printed materials,
- photographs and/or slides,
- posters, and/or
- any other materials that document facts or statistics in the Project Summary. 🌱

MINNESOTA SHADE TREE ADVISORY COMMITTEE • 1998 AWARD NOMINATION FORM

1. **Name of Project or Program** _____
Project Location (City &/or County) _____
2. **Nominee** (Name of the individual and/or primary organization. For partnerships with multiple organizations, list other organizations in the Project Summary. Please write out each name as it should appear on the Award.)
Individual _____
Primary Organization _____
Contact Person/Title _____
Mailing Address _____
City _____ Zip code _____
Phone (____)____-____ Fax (____)____-____
3. **Nominator** _____
Mailing Address _____
City _____ Zip code _____
Phone (____)____-____ Fax (____)____-____
4. **Award Category** (Check all applicable award categories.)
 Outstanding Volunteer Project Outstanding Community Forestry Maintenance Achievement Certificate
 Outstanding Youth Project Distinguished Service Award Sponsorship Certificate
 Outstanding Partnership Tree Care Advisor of the Year Stewardship Certificate
 Outstanding Arbor Day/Arbor Month Celebration Special Merit Award Media Certificate
5. **Brief Project Description** (Briefly describe the project in the space provided here.)

6. **Project Summary** (Enclose a one-page Project Summary. This summary is required as part of the nomination and should include brief statements on the project's background, intended purpose, plan of action, implementation activities, budget and funding sources, positive results, and its impact on the community forest.)
7. **Supporting Documentation** (Enclose supporting information as specified in the Entry Procedure statement.)

All entries must be received by 4:30 pm on Friday, February 26, 1999.

Send completed entry to:

MnSTAC Awards

c/o MSHS, 1755 Prior Avenue North, Falcon Heights, MN 55113

Questions? Contact Terri Goodfellow-Heyer at 651/643-3601 or 1-800/676-4747.



MINNEAPOLIS PARK AND RECREATION BOARD

Town, Legislators, Trees from p. 1

committee that lobbies on behalf of community forests. Each year the legislative committee communicates with the Minnesota State Legislature through an annual report. This report is traditionally a visual as well as written compilation of ideas and concerns MnSTAC has for its urban forests. In addition to this report, individual members of MnSTAC write to legislators, visit them and attend legislative sessions to advance and convey MnSTAC's vision for maintaining our community forests. To date, this effort has been successful in that state legislators are aware that MnSTAC represents a respected group of concerned citizens and

forestry specialists championing the cause of community forests. The legislative effort of MnSTAC, however, must expand beyond the state of Minnesota to encompass federal representations as well. Like the state's ecosystem that is intertwined with that of neighboring states, our lobbying efforts in Minnesota must stretch beyond our state's borders.

How can MnSTAC members make a positive contribution to build and strengthen the public/private partnership that exists between the legislature and urban forests? It is important to note that EVERYONE can be involved in the politics of trees. It doesn't require any special training to make a difference. Tree advocates of all kinds are needed. There are many different degrees of involvement as well.

If you're just starting out in legislative involvement, you might begin by keeping abreast of MnSTAC and its community forest efforts. Being keenly aware of what is going on can in itself lead to opportunities to advocate for trees. Next, take advantage of the list of Minnesota Senate and House of Representatives members on page 6. The list includes those senators and representatives who sit on the two most crucial legislative committees governing urban and community forestry—the Environment and Natural Resources Committee and the Natural Resource Finance Committee.

Please keep the list and refer to it often. Contact your own legislators about your tree-related concerns. If you live in any of the districts that are represented by members of these two committees, make it a special point to connect with them. Call, write a note, e-mail or FAX them, or set up an appointment to talk to them about MnSTAC concerns.

Shake their hands at the county fair and at local civic events. Tell your story at every opportunity.

The MnSTAC legislative committee represents you and advocates on your behalf. But all together, we are the Lorax for our state's trees. We speak for the trees, for the trees have no tongues. 🌿

Mark Schnobrich, author of this article, is City Forester of Hutchinson and Chair of the MnSTAC Legislative Committee. Mike Max, EnvironMentor Systems, Inc.; Steve Cook, Cook Company Consulting Forestry; and Jo Collieran, City of Apple Valley also serve on this committee.

Next Page: How to Contact Your Legislator

Natural Disasters—Uff Da!

Enough is enough! Six wind storms hit my city this year—high property damage in one, high tree loss in another. Our 2,000+ tree loss is only a fraction of what Minneapolis and St. Paul lost. Rural areas too have suffered with loss of life, property and the energy-mitigating trees around farmsteads. The community forest has really taken it on the chin in '98.

What have I learned?

- Citizens expect immediate removal of tree debris - no "burned out" lawns or damage from loading equipment.
- "Chainsaw bandits" (usually from outside the metro area) move in on storm victims like vultures—with high prices, demand for cash payment and sometimes leave before all promised work is done.
- An emergency tree-removal contract with a responsible contractor (in place prior to need) is important if the community lacks manpower and equipment to handle a major catastrophe.
- Many factors dictate community response to wood debris: speed of clearing city of debris, low value of tub grindings, available storage space, ability to safely burn, etc.

What about the future?

- The public needs to be schooled to expect and demand the best tree care and reasonable prices at all times.
- ISA/Tree City information on hiring an arborist should be provided to all our citizens.
- Wood waste utilization needs to be visited again (and again). Progress has given us chippers, tub grinders and sawmills to offer some alternatives to fire. No one method is yet perfect, however.
- Communities need stronger licensing of tree services to improve tree work before and after disasters.

What can MnSTAC do?

Keep promoting publications and information to guide:

- selection of good nursery stock
- the right tree in the right place
- proper planting techniques
- protection during construction, among other things.

Floods last year. Tornadoes and wind storms this year. Hope the snow shovel is ready and your firewood stacked for the winter!

Glen Shirley
MnSTAC President

Contacting Elected Officials: Quick Tips

Are you interested in contacting a legislator about urban forestry issues, but unsure how to do it? These tips are offered by the Minnesota Legislature itself.

How do I let my representative know how I feel about an issue?

First, keep abreast of urban and community forestry issues via the Advocate, MNSTAC meetings, etc.

Then, contact the right people. Contact the committee members on new issues. If a bill dies in committee, no others have a vote.

Feel free to give your elected official a call, but the best way to get his or her attention is with a short, well-reasoned letter. If you write:

Do:

- Be brief—never more than one written page.
- Be honest.
- Remember, you are the expert. Know your facts. Make your letter informative, but use terms the general public understands. “I don’t know” attacks your credibility.
- Get right to the point. For example, you might want to start your letter like this: “I hope you will support (oppose) House File or Senate File #_____.”
- Give your reasons for support or opposition. Tell why you think the bill, if it becomes law, will help or hurt your family, your business or your community. Explain what it means to you personally.
- Include your full name, address and phone num-

ber, along with an invitation to call you if the legislator has more questions,

- Be friendly and be sure to say thanks.

Don't:

- Use form letters. Your own words are much more effective.
- Threaten or attack legislators. Threats and insults don't work, and your enemy today may be your ally tomorrow.

The proper way to address your letter is:

Representative _____
Minnesota House of Representatives
110 Constitution Ave.
St. Paul, MN
55155-1298

or Senator _____
Minnesota Senate
75 Constitution Ave.
St. Paul, MN
55155-1606

The salutation should read:

Dear Senator _____ or
Dear Representative _____.

A Few More Tips:

- Make an appointment if you're planning a visit to your elected officials. That way they can arrange to spend some time with you.
- If you're calling about a specific piece of legislation, find out the House or Senate file number and status before your contact. For help, call the House Index at 651/296-6646; the Senate Index at 651/296-0504 or toll free at 1-888/234-1112.

1999 Members: Environment and Natural Resources Committee Environment and Natural Resources Finance Committee

Minnesota Senate

District/Member/Party	Phone (651/296-_____)		
66 Anderson, Ellen F.	5537	*	
13 Berg, Charles A. (Ind)	5094	*	
20 Dille, Steve (R)	4131	*	**
23 Frederickson, Dennis R. (R)	8138	*	**
58 Higgins, Linda (D)	9246	*	
18 Johnson, Janet B. (D)	5419	*	**
51 Krentz, Jane (D)	7061	*	**
56 Laidig, Gary W. (R)	4351	*	**
3 Lessard, Bob (D)	4136	*	**
32 Morse, Steven (R)	5649	*	**
52 Novak, Steven G. (D)	4334	*	
34 Olson, Gen (R)	1282	*	
37 Pariseau, Pat (R)	5252	*	**
59 Pogemiller, Lawrence J. (D)	7809	*	
57 Price, Leonard R. (D)	297-8060	*	**
12 Samuelson, Don (D)	4875	*	
17 Stevens, Dan (R)	8075	*	
1 Stumpf, LeRoy A. (D)	8660	*	**
22 Vickerman, Jim (D)	5650	*	**

Minnesota House of Representatives

3A Anderson, Irv (D)	4936	*	
6A Bakk, Thomas (D)	2190	*	**
1B Finseth, Tim (R)	9918	*	**
48A Haas, Bill (R)	5513	*	
50A Hackbarth, Tom (R)	297-9010	*	**
66B Hausman, Alice (D)	3824	*	
56A Holsten, Mark (R)	3018	*	**
4B Larry Howes (R)	297-9010	*	**
60A Kelliher, Margaret Anderson (D)	297-9001	*	
55B McCollum, Betty (D)	1188	*	**
7A Munger, Willard (D)	4282	*	**
29B Osskopp, Mike (R)	9236	*	
66A Osthoff, Tom (D)	4224	*	**
37A Ozment, Dennis (R)	4306	*	**
13B Peterson, Doug (D)	4228	*	
18A Rostberg, Jim (R)	5364	*	
2B Skoe, Rod (D)	297-9001	*	
23B Swenson, Howard (R)	8834	*	
50B Tingelstad, Kathy (R)	5369	*	**
63A Wagenius, Jean (D)	4200	*	**
9B Westfall, Robert L. (R)	6829	*	**
43A Workman, Tom (R)	5066	*	

* Environment and Natural Resources Committee

Chair: Dennis Ozment (R)
Vice Chair: Robert L. (Bob) Westfall (R)
Lead: Willard Munger (D)

**Environment and Natural Resources Finance Committee

Chair: Mark Holsten (R)
Vice Chair: Tom Hackbarth (R)
Lead: Tom Osthoff (D)

Senate Information:

Telephone 651/296-0504 or toll free 1-888/234-1112
TTY 651/296-0250 or toll free 1-888/234-1216
Environment and Natural Resources Administrator: Rolf Hanson 296-1385
Secretary: Sandy Brown 296-4136
Capitol or State Office Building, St. Paul, MN 55155

House Public Information Office:

Telephone 651/296-2146 or toll free 1-800/657-3550
TTY 651/296-9896
State Office Building, St. Paul, MN 55155

About MnSTAC

The Minnesota Shade Tree Advisory Committee (MnSTAC) was established in 1974 by a group of concerned citizens to address the health and well being of community forests. MnSTAC provides a forum where people forge a collective vision for the future of Minnesota's community forests and:

- advocates for public and private community forestry interests
- unites for the exchange and dissemination of ideas and information
- serves as the State Urban Forest Council to advise the State Forester on the implementation of state and federally-funded programs.

MnSTAC is recognized throughout Minnesota and the country for its expertise, advice, coordination and support for community trees. It is an organization of diverse individuals who represent a broad spectrum of tree-related interests. It fosters and supports local community tree programs across the state so healthy community forests are fully integrated into community development, infrastructure, education and management.

The MnSTAC resources listed here encourage your calls, questions and sharing of ideas.

MnSTAC BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President: Glen Shirley, City of Bloomington
—612/948-8760 (Fax: 612/948-8770)

Vice President: Kirk Brown, Twin Cities Tree Trust—612/920-3239

Dan Gullickson, MN Dept. of Transportation
—651/779-5084

Katie Himanga, Heartwood Forestry
—651/345-4976

Ken Holman, DNR Forestry
—651/772-7565

Gary Johnson, U of M Forest Resources
—612/625-3765

Mike Max, EnvironMentor Systems, Inc.
—612/753-5505

Dwight Robinson, MN Dept. of Agriculture
—651/296-8578

Mark Stennes, Top Notch Treecare
—612/922-3239

MnSTAC COMMITTEES AND TASK FORCES

Arbor Month Partnership

Chair: Don Mueller, DNR Forestry
—651/772-6148

Constitution and Election

Chair: Ken Simons, Ramsey County Parks
—651/748-2500

Education and Research

Chair: Gary Johnson, U of M Forest Resources—612/625-3765

Forest Health

Chair: Steve Kunde, Kunde Company
—651/484-0114

Legislative

Chair: Mark Schnobrich, City of Hutchinson
—320/234-4459

Outreach

Co-Chairs:
Peter Bedker, Treescapes
—612/682-9562
Mike Max, EnvironMentor Systems, Inc.
—612/753-5505

Planning

Chair: Dave DeVoto, Stacy, MN
—612/462-3347

Publicity and Awards

Chair: Terri Goodfellow-Heyer, MN State Horticultural Society—651/643-3601

Scholarship

Chair: Ralph Sievert, Mpls. Park and Rec. Board—612/370-4900

Tree Emergency Response

Chair: Katie Himanga, Heartwood Forestry
—651/345-4976

Tree Preservation Task Force

Chair: Paul Buck, City of Plymouth
—612/509-5944

Wood Utilization Task Force

Co-Chairs:
Mike Zins, U of M Arboretum
—612/443-2460 Ext. 247
Jim Hermann, Mpls. Park and Rec. Board
—612/370-4900

Regional Shade Tree Advisory Committees

To add more voices to the forum and encourage networking more easily at the local level, three regional MnSTAC units are in place.

Southeast STAC

Southeast STAC represents communities in the eleven counties that are part of the Hiawatha Valley Resource Conservation and Development Area. For information, contact:

Chair: Henry Sorensen
Asst. Pub. Service Director, City of Red Wing
651/385-3674
Sec./Treas.: Katie Himanga
Heartwood Forestry, Lake City
651/345-4976

Headwaters-Agassiz STAC

HASTAC, the Headwaters-Agassiz Shade Tree Advisory Committee, was formed about a year ago as a regional branch of MnSTAC. The NW Regional Development Commission is the fiscal agent. For information, contact:

Chair: John Johnson
City Forester, City of Thief River Falls **218/681-1835**
Sec./Treas.: Jeff Edmonds
DNR Forestry, Bemidji
218/755-2891

West Central STAC

West Central STAC started in 1997 to help communities in the northwest region share ideas, information and local success stories in managing community trees. For information, contact:

Chair: Bob Fogel
Director of Parks, City of Moorhead
218/299-5340
Sec./Treas.: Dave Johnson
DNR Forestry, Detroit Lakes
218/847-1596



DWIGHT SCARBROUGH

FEMA from p. 2

situation, it's a good idea to talk with others who have been through federal disasters and can answer questions about specific circumstances.

The main thing to remember, however, is that tree replacement is no longer covered using FEMA public assistance funds. Some tree replacement costs may be covered under special case mitigation funds, but the overall cost of replanting and replacing trees can be staggering to the community.

The values of the community forest are often not recognized by the public until after it has been damaged or lost. Tree replacement becomes a high priority, and resources to meet the needs are critical.

Minnesota, A Leader

Central to the work of FEMA is preparedness for emergencies. Its role is to promote a strong and effective emergency management system that forges teamwork, collaboration and partnership among many resources to better serve the public.

Minnesota is one of the precedent-setting states in working creatively with FEMA to develop proactive storm damage reduction plans. The State Division of Emergency Management (DEM) works with other state agencies and local groups to extend the efforts.

A Community Forest Storm Damage Reduction Initiative grant currently in process is an example.

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Minnesota Shade Tree Advocate

A quarterly newsletter published by the Minnesota Shade Tree Advisory Committee.

Managing Editorial Group: MnSTAC Education Committee; Gary R. Johnson, Chair

Editor-in-Chief: Jan Hoppe

Design: Jim Kiehne

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This publication was produced with the support of the U.S.D.A. Forest Service, Northeastern Area; State and Private Forestry.

Address inquiries to:

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Printed on recycled paper using soy-based inks.



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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

FEMA from p. 7

Following extensive ice storm damage in 1996, communities in nine southwestern Minnesota counties and their electric utility providers are collaborating in a grant-funded project to reduce future storm damage. There are three interrelated components:

A *trade-a-tree program* removes public trees considered hazardous to power lines during storms and replaces these trees 2:1 with trees that are resistant to ice-storm damage and that do not conflict with the lines (due to smaller size or different placement).

Tree emergency response planning is built through a training workshop in each interested county, with follow-up assistance to those who attend the workshop and develop a plan.

Local community management, involving one-on-one work with local officials, staff and organizations, is available to help build long-term tree health and minimize avoidable storm damage and related clean-up costs.

The project is expected to result in the removal and replacement of 300-700 high risk trees, thus reducing future storm damage to trees and utilities and saving the associated costs. Through education and technical support, the program is expected to substantially increase the cost-effectiveness and efficiency of how these communities respond to storm-caused tree damage. The bonus is better long-term forest health throughout all the communities.

FEMA funds have been used for mitigation involving utilization of wood debris, creating living snowfences, riparian corridors, prevention of runoff and more. Advocates are encouraged to seek ways to partner with FEMA to reduce future disaster damage.

FEMA needs to be thought of as a proactive planning partner and a source for "catastrophic insurance." It is not a resource that will meet all a community's needs following a disaster. Planning ahead is the best hedge for successful recovery.



Thanks to Lisa Burban, USDA Forest Service, for the information in this article. If you have additional questions, please call her at 612/649-5145.

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