

Planting and Caring for



Courtesy Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board

It's easy to take urban and community forests for granted. Sometimes, we don't fully appreciate them until they're no longer there.

Community Trees: Together, We Can Do It.

Minnesota Shade Tree Advisory Committee's Report to the 1999 Legislature



Opportunities for Legislative Action

■ ■ Support the development of the Minnesota Center for Urban and Community Forests.

■ ■ Support the Minnesota Interagency Living Snowfence Task Force.

■ Support the Minnesota Department of Agriculture initiatives for rapid detection and eradication of new pests.

■ Support funding for the Tree Trust Community Forestry Initiative.

Support LCMR's 1999 projects:

■ Minnesota ReLeaf Matching Grants to communities

■ Development and Assessment of Oak Wilt Control Technologies

Community Forests: We need them. They need us.

Commitment to trees is strong across Minnesota. Communities and volunteers work with dedicated tree care professionals throughout the state to address the needs of our community forests. But today, declining budgets at all levels of government (federal, state and local) are threatening the proper care and maintenance needed for healthy community trees.

We must speak for the trees. Five special needs have been identified.

■ Minnesota Center for Urban and Community Forestry

■ Storm Damage

■ Pest Invasions

■ Nonprofits

■ Living Snowfences



Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board

Minnesota Center for Urban and Community Forestry

Minnesota Center for Urban and Community Forestry: A Resource for All

Minnesota needs a central resource, available to all its communities, for up-to-date information, technical support, education and research related to community forestry. Though many of these services are already in place, they are spread across a range of state agencies, organizations and businesses. Getting accurate information is difficult, frustrating and time-consuming, especially for communities in greater Minnesota.

- The mission of the Center for Urban and Community Forestry is to improve the quality of life of all Minnesota residents by maximizing the benefits of their urban forests.

- The Center would make public services available to all parts of the state through electronic communications.

- MnSTAC's endorsement of the Center brings broad-base support from a wide range of individuals and organizations.
- The concept of this Center has been developing over the past three years through a diverse group of collaborators. The group includes the University of Minnesota, several state agencies, organizations dedicated to tree-related issues, municipal parks and recreation departments, city forestry divisions and county extension educators.

For more information, contact Gary Johnson, U of M Forest Resources, 612/625-3765.

Storm Damage

Storm Damage: Preparing and Repairing

This year, it is right before our eyes. The storms of 1998 brought staggering losses to many community forests in Minnesota.

- A current DNR survey reports 128,000 trees lost or damaged during the storms, with 55% of the communities surveyed and with reports still coming in.
- To date, clean-up costs exceed \$11,000,000.
- FEMA (Federal Emergency Management Agency) funds help cover expenses when an area is declared a federal disaster area, but even then many costs, including those for replanting, must usually be covered by local and state funds.
- Of the storm-damaged trees, 39% failed due to *preventable* conditions. Sustained, proactive tree care programs would have helped reduce these losses.

For more information, contact Katie Himanga, Chair, MnSTAC Tree Emergency Response Committee, 651/345-4976.

Pest Invasions

Pest Invasions: Identification and Eradication

The health and vitality of Minnesota's community forests are affected by how effectively tree diseases and insect destruction are controlled. Four destructive forces are priorities for aggressive action.

Oak wilt is already present in much of the state, especially southeast Minnesota and the metro area. Anoka County has more oak wilt than any other county *in the nation*. Infection centers must be identified, treated and contained—

and then managed over many years to stop spreading.

For more information, contact Dwight Scarbrough, MN DNR, 651/772-7927.

Gypsy moths, Japanese beetles and **Asian longhorned beetles** are threatening the lives of our community forests. *Gypsy moth* trapping programs are well underway, but the pest is increasing in range. Scattered infestations of *Japanese beetles* have been identified in the metro. Fruits and leaves of trees and roots of turf are all potential food for this pest. *Asian longhorned beetles* (ALB) have invaded limited areas of New York and Chicago, where quarantine and eradication are underway. The pest has not been detected in Minnesota but we have received potentially infested wood crating. Vigilance and detection surveys must increase. ALB kills **healthy** trees. Hosts include maples, elm, willow and many other species. Clear cutting is the only remedy whether in city or rural forest.

For more information, contact Dan Stoddard, MN Dept. of Agriculture, 651/297-8293.

Nonprofits: Building Connections

No one argues the facts: Trees improve air quality, conserve energy, raise property values, enhance water quality, provide animal habitat, help control soil erosion, add beauty and provide a means of social interaction that results in a greater sense of community.

- Non-profits play a vital role in providing education and coordination for community forest programs.
- Community forest programs help citizens recognize and enjoy the physical and social benefits of the urban forest. They build personal responsibility to promote environmental stewardship.

- A statewide Community Forest Initiative is needed. It would bring existing state, federal and local agencies together with private businesses and citizen groups to help communities build and sustain their community forests. Tree Trust helps numerous communities now. It is in an ideal position to lead this initiative.

For more information, contact Kirk Brown, President, Tree Trust, 612/920-9326.

Living Snowfences

Living Snowfences: Saving Dollars and the Environment

Minnesota's pioneer families made use of trees as windbreaks and shelter belts to protect their farmsteads. The Minnesota Interagency Living Snowfence Task Force is today's expanded version of the same concept, with the protected sites being roadways. Strategically planted trees, shrubs and native grasses 100-500 feet from roads can drastically reduce snow on Minnesota roads.

- In an average winter, Minnesota spends \$100 million moving snow. In 1996-97, that figure was \$215 million.
- Living snowfences on 1,000 problem miles of county and state roads can reduce snow removal maintenance costs, increase public safety and improve the efficiency of the public transportation network.
- Cost/benefit analysis shows a spectacular rate of return: **for each \$1 spent, \$17 can be saved.**
- Living snowfences are a win-win situation for everyone. They save money and insure safety for the motorist.

For more information, contact Dan Gullickson, Chair, Interagency Living Snowfence Task Force, 651/779-5084.

Opportunities for Legislative Action

■ ■ **Support the development of the Minnesota Center for Urban and Community Forests**, giving direct access to fast and accurate information and technology to communities across the state to better assist them with replanting and preparedness before and after storms (\$100,000).

■ ■ **Support the Minnesota Interagency Living Snowfence Task Force**, increasing motorists' safety and saving \$17 for every \$1 spent removing wind-deposited snow.

■ **Support the Minnesota Department of Agriculture initiatives** to increase funding for the detection and rapid eradication of new pests such as ALB that threaten our economy and environment. Prevention is the best and least costly policy.

■ **Support funding for the Tree Trust Community Forestry Initiative.** This initiative will bring many programs together to create a more sustainable community. (\$500,000)

Support the 1999 Legislative Commission on Minnesota Resources (LCMR) proposal projects:

■ **Minnesota ReLeaf Matching Grants Project Summary:** Matching grants to local communities would: plant predominantly native trees for multiple environmental benefits, protect forests from oak wilt and develop GIS-based community forests assessments and management plans. (\$850,000)

■ **Development and Assessment of Oak Wilt Control Technologies**

Project Summary: Oak wilt is the number one cause of oak mortality in Minnesota. The project will develop and improve management technologies necessary to mitigate urbanization impacts (primary contributor to growth of the disease in east central and southeastern Minnesota) on the health of oak forests. (\$200,000)

MnSTAC Member Affiliations

The Minnesota Shade Tree Advisory Committee (MnSTAC) is recognized throughout Minnesota for its expertise, advice, coordination and support related to urban and community forestry. An advocate for public and private community forest issues, it serves as a state-wide forum for the exchange and dissemination of ideas and information.

To add more voices to the forum and encourage networking at the local level, regional MnSTAC units are in place: Southeast STAC, Headwaters-Agassiz STAC, West Central STAC, and the emerging Northeast STAC.

MnSTAC's diverse members represent a wide spectrum of tree-related interests. The organization fosters and supports local community tree programs across the state so healthy forests are fully integrated into community development, infrastructure, education and management.

Approximately 180 people are members of the organization, which holds monthly meetings. Communities, organizations, businesses and agencies represented in MnSTAC include:



MnSTAC is committed to bring the best information and resources to the public, professionals and decision-makers of Minnesota.

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Accent Company	Close Landscape Architect	MN Office of Tourism
American Forests	Cook Company	MN Office of Waste Mgmt.
Anoka County Tree Bd.	Dahlgren, Shardlow and Urban, Inc.	MN Senate
Bachman's Wholesale Ctr	Dakota Co. Parks Dept.	MyCological Applications
Bailey Nurseries, Inc.	Davey Tree Company	National Urban Forest Council
Bemidji Parks & Rec. Dept.	Dirt Diggers Garden Club	Northern States Power Office of Environmental Services
Canopy Tree Care	Duluth Public Works Dept.	Plant Disease Diagnostics
Chisago-Isanti Woodland Council	EnvironMentor Systems	Plant Health Associates, Inc.
Cities of:	Forestry Professionals, Inc.	Point Forestry
Andover	Greening the Great River Park	Rainbow Treecare
Apple Valley	Heartwood Forestry	Ramsey Co. Parks Dept.
Austin	Hennepin Co.	Rochester Parks & Rec.
Blaine	Hennepin Parks	Scientific Services
Bloomington	Hiawatha Valley RC&D	SD DNR-Forestry Div.
Brooklyn Center	Horticultural Research Ctr.	Sherburne Co. Tree Board
Burnsville	IA DNR-Forestry Division	St. Croix Tree Service
Chatfield	Inst. for Ag. and Trade Policy	St. John's University
Coon Rapids	IRRRB	The Write Connection
Crookston	Isanti Co. Parks & Rec.	Top Notch Treecare
Crystal	Isanti Community College	Treescapes
Eagan	Joan Spence and Assoc.	Twin Cities Tree Trust
East Grand Forks	Kunde Company Inc.	University of Minnesota Extension Service
Eden Prairie	Landscape Plant Development Center	Clay County
Golden Valley	Lee Nursery	Norman County
Hastings	Living Sculpture Tree Care	University of Minnesota College of Natural Resources' Departments
Hawley	Mahnomen Co. Extension	Entomology
Hendrum	Marshall Co. SWCD	Forest Resources
Hutchinson	Merriam Park Env. Cmte.	Wood and Paper Science
Kennedy	Metro Operations	University of Minnesota Department of Entomology
Lake City	Mpls. Park & Rec. Board	UMC-Natural Resources Dept.
Lewiston	Mpls. Star & Tribune	USDA Forest Service
Lino Lakes	Minnesota Grown	V.A. Medical Center
Mankato	Minnesota Power	Vernix Forestry Consultants
Mounds View	MN Association of SWCDs	Washington County Health Dept.
New Brighton	MN Dept. of Agriculture	Whittier Neighborhood Reforestation Project
New Hope	MN Dept. of Natural Resources	Wild Rose Landscape Gardening
Plymouth	MN Dept. of Transportation	WI Dept. of Natural Resources
Preston	MN State Horticultural Society	
Ramsey	MN House of Representatives	
Red Wing	MN Landscape Arboretum	
Robbinsdale	MN Nursery & Landscape Assn.	
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St. Louis Park		
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