

## Hazleton Shade Tree Commission

Phone: (570) 387-4255

Project Manager: Tom Bast

Grant Amount: \$15,625

The Hazleton Northeast TreeKeepers highlighted the importance of urban trees in communities. The TreeKeepers project employed disadvantaged youths between the ages of 16 and 21 to examine, inventory, evaluate, prioritize, and maintain urban trees within the City of Hazleton. The program contributed to the establishment of ongoing volunteer Green-Teen and Senior-Green programs committed to natural resource improvements and tree care. Administrative changes for the city have contributed to a new municipal government that now fully supports urban forestry.

The program is a resource for other communities interested in developing environmental job training for youths. The inventory, developed through the program, is user friendly and the software is now available to other municipalities through the Northeast Community Tree Association.

### Significant Revisions to the Scope of Work

The project manager was informed that under the Pennsylvania Child Labor Law youths under the age of 16 could not participate. The program was readjusted for high school and college students. The project scope of work was scaled down because the city could not afford to pay compensation insurance for its summer employees.

### Project Value and Match

<b>Grant Award</b>	<b>\$15,625</b>
Cash Contributions	\$7,000
In-kind Contributions	<u>\$17,000</u>
<b>Total Project Cost</b>	<b>\$39,625</b>

### Project Accomplishments

- Inventoried 126-miles of street trees in Hazleton.
- Replaced 20 dead street trees.
- Cared for 356 trees on historic and community sites.
- Demonstrated hazard-pruning techniques.
- Provided summer employment for 6 disadvantaged students.
- Worked with 40 volunteers who committed 3,263 hours of service.
- Provided hands-on workshop on tree care, fertilization, and pruning for 6 youth and 20 Senior Tree Keepers.
- Identified environmentally threatened areas and developed plans for mitigation.
- Achieved a 1 to 1.54 cost share ratio on the grant.





### Partners' Contributions

- Black Creek Township – Services
- Butler Township – Services
- Catholic Social Services – Financial assistance
- City of Hazleton – Trucks and services
- Council of Government Agencies – Technical assistance
- ECO Tigers Educational Program – Volunteer services
- Envirothon Educational Program – Volunteer services
- Foster Township – Services
- Freeland Township – Services
- Hazle Township – Services
- Hazleton School District – Volunteer services
- Lower Anthracite Project – Volunteer services
- NEPA Community Tree Association – Technical assistance
- Penn State Cooperative Extension Service – Technical assistance
- Pocono Northeast RC&D – Technical assistance
- United Rehabilitation Services – Financial assistance
- West Hazleton Borough – Services

