

## Demonstration Grants

Projects funded through the Northeast Pennsylvania Urban Forestry Program demonstrated how urban and rural communities can effectively deal with the complexities of natural resource management as it relates to community sustainability. Three types of grants were available through the 1997 program:

- Large Demonstration Grants supported larger scale projects. Awards ranged from \$15,000 to \$150,000.
- Small Demonstration Grants initiated or expanded smaller scale projects. Awards ranged from \$5,000 to \$15,000.
- Tree Liability and Assessment Grants integrated three activities: liability assessment, hazard remediation, and restoration plantings. Awards ranged from \$3,000 to \$15,000.

Grantees were required to demonstrate the integration of social, economic, and ecological resource enhancement activities within the watershed-based framework of Northeastern Pennsylvania. The projects awarded funding were concentrated in the Lackawanna River Valley and expanded beyond the 1995 Program area.

All grants addressed issues of regional concern. Priority was given to projects that showed sustainable, physical environmental improvements using existing, community-based plans. Grant awards to communities and organizations focused on collaborative, interdisciplinary, public-private projects that demonstrated:

- integration of traditional community building approaches,
- resource protection,
- education,
- volunteerism,
- partnership building activities,
- vegetation management or habitat restoration, and
- use of existing valid planning efforts.

Grant applicants were required to:

- address the goals of the program,
- show a reasonable work plan and budget,
- show capacity to complete the project on time,
- have project managers with dedicated time,
- show sustainable environmental and/or educational impacts,
- implement existing, community supported plans,
- address both vegetation and watershed management,
- involve collaboration, volunteerism and/or interdisciplinary approaches,
- include project evaluation as part of the proposal,
- show linkages to other projects and programs, and
- document project site ownership or permission.

All grants were awarded competitively and reviewed by a team representing federal, state, and local government and natural resources professionals. The review team made recommendations to the USDA Forest Service. In 1997, 21 projects were funded.

