

Program Accomplishments

The accomplishments of the 1995 and 1997 projects show the impacts that urban and community forestry efforts had in Northeastern Pennsylvania. The program clearly contributed to an increased understanding of many important ecological, social, and economic issues.

Program contributions to ecological sustainability:

- Raised awareness of the environmental impact of industrialization.
- Increased understanding of water quality protection needs.
- Restored many degraded urban sites.
- Increased the use of native species and understanding of biodiversity.
- Developed remediation techniques for culm-based soils.
- Increased understanding and eradication of invasive exotic plants.
- Remediated hazardous street trees and promoted replanting.
- Increased stewardship and resource management in the urban forest.

Program contributions of social importance:

- Created opportunities for citizens to participate in community-based environmental activities.
- Promoted the use of partnerships to bring diverse groups together in the spirit of natural resource protection.
- Instilled natural resource values in the community at large, and particularly in children through environmental education.
- Strengthened community connections through greenways and trails.
- Created stewardship opportunities for school children, volunteers, organizations and local citizens.
- Funded educational workshops on sustainable development, tree care and riparian buffers.
- Funded environmental training in local school districts.

Program accomplishments promoting economic vitality:

- Created opportunities for community interaction and cooperation at the local, regional, state and federal levels.
- Increased property values.
- Improved landscape aesthetics on our streets, along rivers, trails and in community parks.
- Brought much needed funding to remediate maple decline in 9 counties.
- Supported efforts to create community greenspace and parks.
- Supported regional and local planning initiatives committed to improving quality of life.
- Promoted tourism through highway beautification, creation of a regional arboretum, and business district improvements.
- Increased employment for local contractors, landscape companies, and design professionals.

Awards:

- Northeast PA Economic Development Council - Environmental Partnership Award for the Program, 1996
- Tree City USA Awards, 1996, 1997
- Governors Award for Environmental Excellence, 1997
- Northeastern PA Economic Development Council - Environmental Partnership Award for two projects, 1997