

Demonstration Grants

Projects funded through the fiscal year 2000 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 program:

- Large Demonstration Grants supported larger scale projects. Awards ranged from \$20,000 to \$100,000.
- Small Demonstration Grants initiated or expanded smaller scale projects. Awards ranged from \$1,991 to \$20,000.
- Tree Liability Grants integrated three activities: liability assessment, hazard remediation, and restoration plantings. Awards ranged from \$7,500 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 Valley within the Scranton - Carbondale metropolitan 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 and education,
- volunteerism and 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.

Grants were awarded competitively and reviewed by teams representing federal, state, and local government and natural resources agencies. The review teams made recommendations to the USDA Forest Service. In 2000 and 2001, 66 acceptable submissions were received and 23 projects and two special initiatives were funded through this appropriation.