

# Midwest Center for Urban & Community Forestry

USDA Forest Service  
Northeastern Area  
State and Private Forestry



*Center for Excellence for the Midwest States*

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## Background:

The Midwest Center for Urban & Community Forestry is a regional Center of Excellence that supports the technology transfer component of the Federal Urban & Community Forestry Program. It is one of three Urban Forestry Centers administered by the Northeastern Area whose combined efforts serve the 20 northeast and Midwest states, and the District of Columbia. The overriding mission of each Center is to contribute to healthy and sustainable communities and ecosystems by identifying and responding to urban and community forestry information needs, coordinating and supporting new and existing research, and facilitating the exchange of information.

## Mission:

The Midwest Center is located in St. Paul, Minnesota and is a cooperative partnership between the USDA Forest Service, Northeastern Area State and Private Forestry and the University of Minnesota, Department of Forest Resources. The Midwest Center has a Technology Transfer Committee comprised of representatives from state urban forestry programs, universities, municipalities, the green industry, and the Forest Service's Forest Health Protection, Forest Resources Management and Research staffs. The Center provides service to the 7 Midwest states of Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, and Wisconsin. The mission of the Midwest Center of Urban and Community Forestry is to:

- Facilitate the development of technology transfer programs that are science-based, support innovative technologies, and address key issues related to urban forest health.
- Transfer information, products and services to policy makers, resources managers and other end-users, using preferred and effective educational outreach methods.
- Promote partnerships among federal, state and local governments, non-profit groups, educational institutions, land developers and planners, and the green industry to promote healthy and sustainable communities and the stewardship of urban forest resources.
- Administer funding for focused technology transfer initiatives that address key urban forest health issues, needs and research priorities within the Midwest States.

## Selected Accomplishments for 2000:

The following projects were developed with funding provided by the Midwest Center's Technology Transfer Competitive Grant Program:

- ***The Forest Where Ashley Lives***, a children's book written by an urban forester and his daughter. This book artfully introduces the concept of a community forest and targets children ages 5 through 9 years. It received a "Gold Award" from the *Council for Advancement and Support of Education* for excellence in graphic design.
- ***Tree Pests of the Midwest***, a poster displaying key diseases and insect pests, graphically arranged to coincide with the month during which they occur, degree-days, and plant phenological indicators.
- ***Experts Agree: Don't Top Your Tree***, a public service media kit designed to educate laypersons about the malpractice of tree topping. Materials were developed to allow states to customize text with local information, and a guidebook provided tips on how to launch a successful statewide anti-topping campaign.

## Future Direction:

- Serve as a liaison to other S&PF programs that promote forest health and sustainability.
- Serve on the National Urban Forestry Technology Transfer Team.
- Collaborate with the other NA Centers for Urban & Community Forestry.
- Conduct an NA Urban Forest Health Education and Research Needs Assessment.
- Coordinate the development of the Urban Tree Risk Management Training Manual.

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