



Midwest Center for Urban and Community Forestry

Recently Completed Projects

Publications

Planting Trees and Shrubs for Long-term Health

The University of Minnesota developed this 12-page color booklet describing and graphically demonstrating the proper way to plant bare root, balled-and-burlapped, and container stock. It details transplant shock, selecting healthy specimens, planting techniques, and aftercare. A laminated planting guide is included for use in the field.

Community Tree Planting Guide

This 3-ring bound manual details the necessary components and steps to reaching out and involving citizens in community tree projects. An update of the Tree Trust's previous "Community Outreach Manual," this book discusses the value of trees, organizing teams, project planning, and technical information related to tree planting and care.

Urban Tree Risk Management Guide

The Forest Service's Forest Health program organized and co-authored a community guide to tree risk management. This publication details steps for communities to develop a comprehensive risk management program, from planning and policy to implementation and evaluation. It also details technical information necessary to detect, correct, and prevent tree defects.

Videos

Preventing Stem Girdling Roots

The Minnesota Society of Arboriculture coordinated the production of a 15-minute training video for green industry professionals. Based on research presented in "A Practitioner's Guide to Stem Girdling Roots" by Gary Johnson and Rich Hauer, it outlines how to identify and prevent this common tree malady. English and Spanish versions are available.

CD's and Internet Resources

Urban Trees and Shrubs—Slide Set

The Chicago Botanic Garden produced a slide set featuring 250 photographs of deciduous and coniferous trees and shrubs in both slide and digital format. It is available on CD and on the web at: www.na.fs.fed.us/spfo/pubs/uf/uts/index.htm



The Forest Where Ashley Lives —Interactive CD

Iowa State University coordinated production of a CD-ROM based on the popular book of the same title. Developed for ages 5-9, the CD helps children identify and understand key benefits derived from community forests and offers expanded study of topics covered in the book. Both a student and teacher version (with lesson plans) are available.

Current Initiatives

Publications

Invasive Species Control in Urban Woodlands

DePaul University hosted a symposium on Invasive Species in Urban Woodlands this winter, pulling together researchers and land managers who have been dealing with invasive weeds throughout the Chicago Wilderness for over a decade. These professionals shared their experiences on successful methods for eradication and control. So that others may learn from their trials, the Midwest Center will give a grant to DePaul to compile the presentations into an invasive species management guide.

Workshops

Technology for Urban Foresters

The University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point will host a workshop on the latest methodologies and computer tools related to urban tree risk management, tree inventories, and storm preparedness and response.



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This advanced training will teach participants how to use Personal Digital Assistants (PDA's) for data collection, both as a stand-alone tool and with GPS and GIS applications. Three cities from Wisconsin will attend the workshop and serve as pilots*.

Tree Inventories

The Indiana Community and Urban Forestry Program will host a workshop on tree inventories. Topics will include choosing the appropriate type of inventory, preparation, data collection, analysis, and management. One city from Indiana and one from a neighboring state will serve as pilots*.



The use of PDA technology will be featured in several workshops co-hosted by the Midwest Center in the coming year. Palm / Pilots will be available for hands-on instruction and for loan on a trial basis.

Developing and Implementing a Community-wide Tree Risk Management Program

The University of Minnesota will host a 3-day workshop that will bring together authors of the recently completed "Urban Tree Risk Management" guide to teach relatively new topics such as dividing a community into risk zones, writing risk policy, and using computer technologies for data collection and analysis. Traditional topics related to assessing defects, evaluating risk, and preventing and correcting defects will also be taught to make this a comprehensive training. Five communities from across the Midwest will serve as pilots*.

Storm Preparedness and Response

The Missouri Urban & Community Forestry Program will host a workshop on Storm Preparedness and Response, featuring the latest Storm Damage Assessment Protocol. One city from Missouri and one from a neighboring state will serve as pilots*.

Building Capacity in Volunteer Organizations

This one-day workshop will train leaders of volunteer organizations how to build capacity in their tree board, non-profit, or other urban forestry group. Topics such as board development, public relations/communications strategies, fundraising, grant-writing, developing a public policy agenda, building/managing partnerships, strategies for reaching out to under-served audiences, and legislative operations will be covered.

Community-based Conservation Projects

The New Academy for Nature and Culture will present a series of symposiums on successful community-based conservation projects, based on their compilation of case studies from across the world. The book and presentations will inspire and communicate factors that make a community-led initiative successful.

Tools

Storm Damage Assessment Protocol

The Midwest and Mid-Atlantic Centers are partnering with the Northeast Center to refine and further expand the storm damage assessment protocol previously developed by the Northeast Center and Davey Resource Group. A PDA data collection tool and associated freeware will be developed to assist in pre- and post-storm data collection and analysis. To help increase access to the protocol and tools, a comprehensive web resource will be launched.

Urban Forest Risk Management Freeware

The Midwest Center Coordinator will develop a freeware application to analyze risk assessment data collected in the field. This management tool will help communities develop prioritized risk-abatement programs based on their community's risk zones and tree risk ratings.

Palm / Pilots

Seven Palm | Pilots, backup cards, cases, and Pendragon Forms software will be purchased for training purposes and to loan out to those interested in experimenting with this technology for data collection.

*Pilot communities will attend the workshops for free. In return they will be asked to implement the methods and tools presented in the workshop and provide feedback regarding training effectiveness, methodologies presented, and usefulness of tools. The Midwest Center Coordinator will maintain contact with the communities for at least one year to monitor success and provide technical assistance as needed.



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