

The Renewable Resources Extension Act (RREA) at the University of Connecticut

RREA programs are designed, implemented, and evaluated to help better protect, replace, manage, and conserve municipal trees and community forests to improve urban quality of life and to ensure both local and state-wide urban environmental sustainability in Connecticut cities, towns, and villages. RREA programs are integrated and networked extensively with critical partners to deliver targeted education programs primarily to municipal tree wardens, community volunteers, and elected and appointed officials. Programs are designed to provide essential, current, and timely information and to motivate people to apply new knowledge gained. From October 1, 2005 to September 30, 2006, each RREA dollar leveraged approximately \$11 from grants, education event fees, publication purchases, organization membership dues, and private donations. Examples of the use of RREA funds this past year includes:

- The publishing of *Greening Connecticut Cities and Towns: Managing Public Trees and Community Forests* (2005). This 265 page book contains 27 chapters was written and designed with tree wardens, urban and community volunteers, and elected and appointed officials. Of 2,000 copies printed, nearly half were distributed to the tree warden, chief elected official, and all known community forestry volunteers in all 169 Connecticut communities. In addition, the book was distributed to 117 municipal libraries, and each state elected official. Two book awards were presented by the Connecticut Urban Forest Council and the Association of Natural Resources Extension Professionals.
- Twenty-two tree wardens, deputy tree wardens, municipal engineers participated in the 9th annual Tree Warden School and Certification Program (begun in 1998). To date 207 key municipal people responsible for community forestry activities have passed the final course exam and continue to obtain required continuation education credits to maintain certification.



Tree wardens learn about tree risk.

“Greening Connecticut Cities and Towns addresses many of the basic issues lucidly and handsomely. It is a 265-page, glossy, colorful hardcover book that incorporates photographs, drawings, and sidebars. In short, it’s a keeper. It would be at home in a local library, in a town hall reading room, on a municipal arborist’s desk, or on the mayor’s coffee table. It belongs out where it can be seen and used, rather than tucked away on your reference shelf.” - Scott Cullen, for City Trees, volume 41, no. 6, p. 37.

“Our ability to serve our constituents would virtually cease if not for partnership with UConn Cooperation Extension.” - Fred Borman, Forestry Program Specialist, CT Div. of Forestry

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