

# Minnesota Tree Care Advocate Program

*2023 Annual Report*



**87** *Active Tree Care Advocate Volunteers*

**4,096** *Volunteer Hours*



## Our Programs

The Minnesota Tree Care Advocate Program is an organization of University of Minnesota trained volunteers throughout the state dedicated to urban and community forestry. Our mission is to educate people in the state about their urban and community forests so that they, in turn, can volunteer in their neighborhoods and communities. This program is currently comprised of two programs: 1) the Tree Care Advisor Program (1993), and 2) the Tree Steward Program (2016) (which absorbed the Citizen Pruner Program in 2022).



Minnesota Tree Care Advocate Program

4,096

Volunteer Hours  
Logged in 2023

\$141,189

Value of Volunteer  
2023 Contributions

## Program Updates

In 2023, we subscribed to a new volunteer database system, My Impact. This system allows us to more accurately and quickly record volunteer hours and profile changes. It also helps us to streamline the way in which we contact volunteers for opportunities, updates, and more.

We held seven Tree Steward trainings in cities around the state— Ely (2), La Crescent, Austin, Edina, West Concord, and St. Paul. We also welcomed 22 people to our Tree Care Advisor Core Course, 14 of which finished all required classes and assignments to become certified. We also had over 6,000 visits to our Ask A Tree Care Advisor Booth at the Minnesota State Fair.

The Volunteer & Programs Coordinator also hosted two informational and how-to presentations for Minnesota AmPact (AmeriCorps) members on the topic of Working with Volunteers.

## 2023 People Trained by Programs



14

*New certified  
Tree Care Advisors*



7

*Tree Stewards trainings*



131

*People attended Tree  
Essentials classes*

## Tree Care Advisor Program

The Tree Care Advisor Program was founded in 1992 and has since educated independent volunteers to act as volunteers, educators, and facilitators in communities throughout Minnesota. These volunteers are trained through a 40 hour Core Course on all things related to trees and shrubs. Volunteers are asked to complete 25 hours of volunteer service and 4 hours of continuing education each calendar year to remain active and up-to-date on the latest research.



## Tree Care Advisor Accomplishments

### 2023 Accomplishments



**3,587**

*volunteer hours*



**57**

*active volunteers*



**\$123,643.89**

*value of volunteer contributions*

### Overall Accomplishments



**118,812**

*volunteer hours*



**328**

*trained volunteers*



**\$3,697,560.14**

*value of volunteer contributions*

## Forest Resources Outreach Line

The 50+ year old Forest Resources Outreach Line is a resource for Minnesotans to ask questions about their trees and shrubs via email or telephone. Tree Care Advisor volunteers assist in answering these questions to provide research-based and non-biased resolutions. In 2023, both Tree Care Advisors and UFOR staff managed the outreach line.



**432** *total questions were received and answered*



# Tree Steward Program



The Tree Steward Program was created to train community volunteers on a wide array of topics related to planting, watering, pruning, monitoring young tree health, and leading others in regards to young tree care. These volunteers are encouraged to complete 10 hours of volunteer work and/or attend 3 community events each calendar year to remain active.

## Tree Steward Accomplishments

### 2023 Accomplishments



**509**

*volunteer hours*



**30**

*active volunteers*



**\$17,545.23**

*value of volunteer contributions*

### Overall Accomplishments



**4,239.5**

*volunteer hours*



**\$103,630.61**

*value of volunteer contributions*

## Words from Community Volunteers

*"While participating at the State Fair this year, TCA Booth, I was pleasantly surprised to discover how many people in our state love & care for their trees! The concern for loss, the excitement to plant new! It was fun to be a part of many, some long, conversations, advising and learning as a TCA!"*

*~ Brigitte, MN Tree Care Advisor*

