

University of Minnesota Department of Forest Resources



Minnesota Tree Care Advocate

People Helping Trees Help Communities

2018 Annual Report

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Tree Care Advocate Program Overview

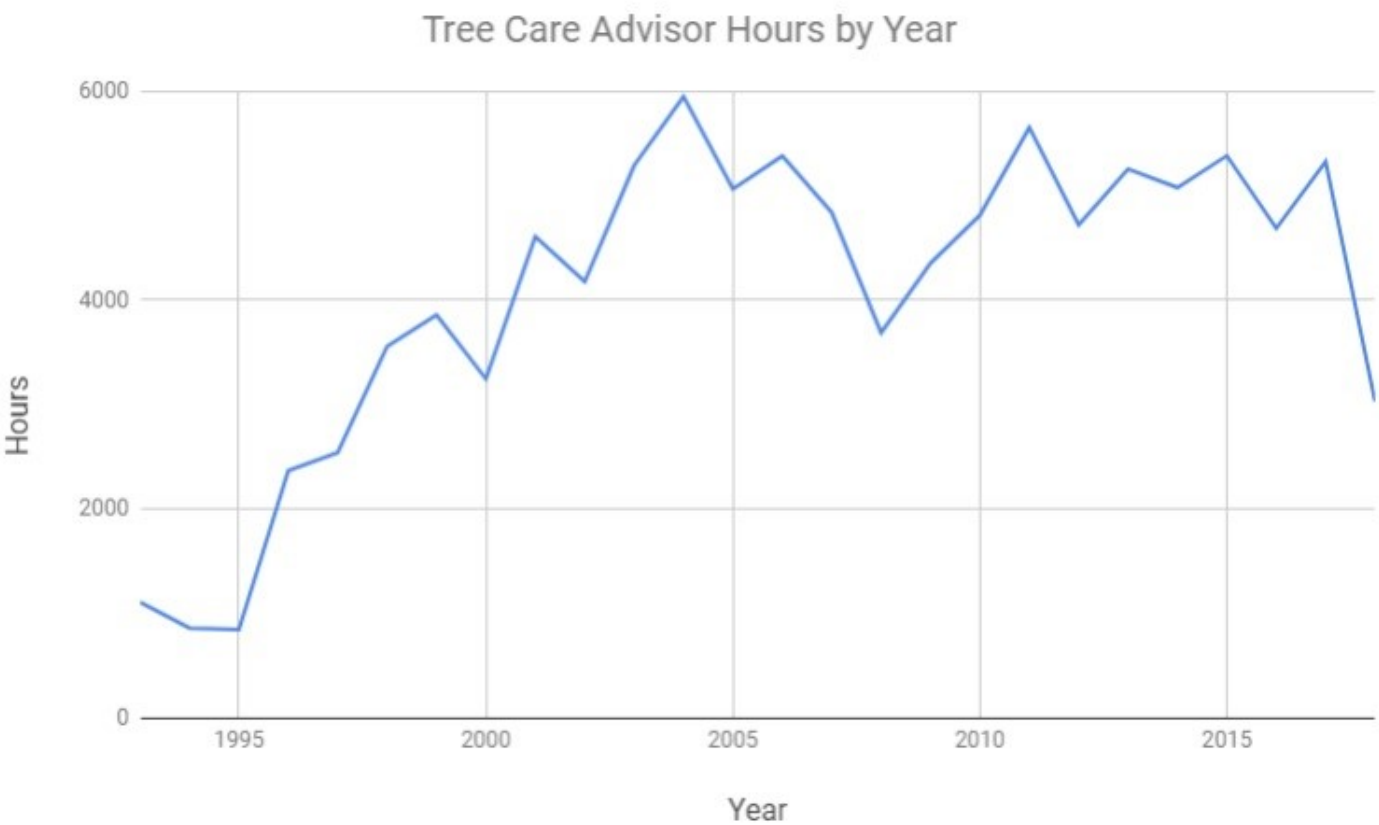
Minnesota Tree Care Advocate is an organization of University of Minnesota trained volunteers throughout the state that are dedicated to community forestry. This program is currently comprised of **three** community forestry programs including **Tree Care Advisor**, **Citizen Pruner**, and **Tree Steward**. Minnesota Tree Care Advocate works to educate citizens of the state about their urban forests so that they, in turn, can volunteer in their neighborhoods and communities.

Minnesota Tree Care Advisors

The **Minnesota Tree Care Advisor Program**, founded in 1993, aids in the development of environmental stewards through education and the promotion of volunteerism. Tree Care Advisor volunteers provide communities throughout the state with a valuable pool of **educated stewards** to support and enhance our urban and community forests. Tree Care Advisors are asked to complete at least **25 hours of service** toward any volunteer activities related to tree, shrub and vine care. Tree Care Advisors are also asked to complete **4 hours of continuing education** to stay up to date on the latest research.

In 2018, 59 active Tree Care Advisors dedicated their time to volunteerism in Minnesota.

Cumulative Tree Care Advisor Volunteer Hours



In 2018, Tree Care Advisors completed a total of 3,033 volunteer hours. From 1993 to the end of 2018, volunteers have completed a total of 105,687.66 volunteer hours.

Tree Care Advisor Financial Contributions

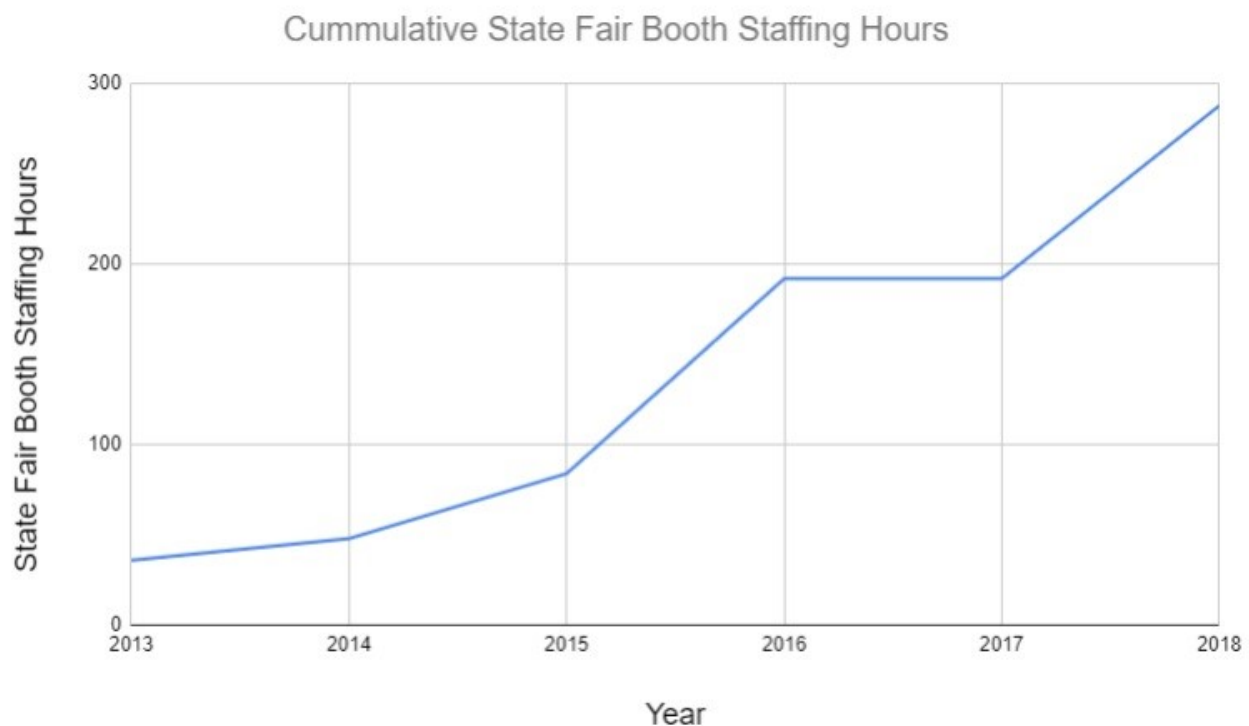
Year	Total Hours	Hourly Rate *\$ per Hour	Value to MN in \$
1993	1110.00	\$12.35	\$13,708.50
1994	861.50	\$12.68	\$10,923.82
1995	847.50	\$13.05	\$11,059.88
1996	2368.50	\$13.47	\$31,903.70
1997	2539.35	\$13.99	\$35,525.51
1998	3559.25	\$14.56	\$51,822.68
1999	3858.20	\$15.09	\$58,220.24
2000	3247.50	\$15.68	\$50,920.80
2001	4608.00	\$16.14	\$74,373.12
2002	4176.95	\$16.14	\$67,415.97
2003	5288.65	\$17.20	\$90,964.78
2004	5949.80	\$17.74	\$105,549.45
2005	5065.45	\$18.18	\$92,089.88
2006	5381.85	\$18.25	\$98,218.76
2007	4840.55	\$18.72	\$90,615.10
2008	3688.85	\$19.65	\$72,485.90
2009	4352.85	\$20.55	\$89,451.07
2010	4813.35	\$20.90	\$100,599.02
2011	5653.50	\$21.62	\$122,228.67
2012	4722.60	\$21.91	\$103,472.17
2013	5256.43	\$23.59	\$123,999.18
2014	5077.65	\$24.31	\$123,437.67
2015	5382.50	\$24.83	\$133,647.48
2016	4688.05	\$25.20	\$118,138.86
2017	5276.33	\$26.40	\$129,057.51
2018	3033.00	\$27.58	\$83,650.14

Collectively, monetary contributions from Tree Care Advisors between 1993 and 2018 totals \$2,915,196.62 (based on 2017 figures).

“Ask A Tree Care Advisor” State Fair Booth

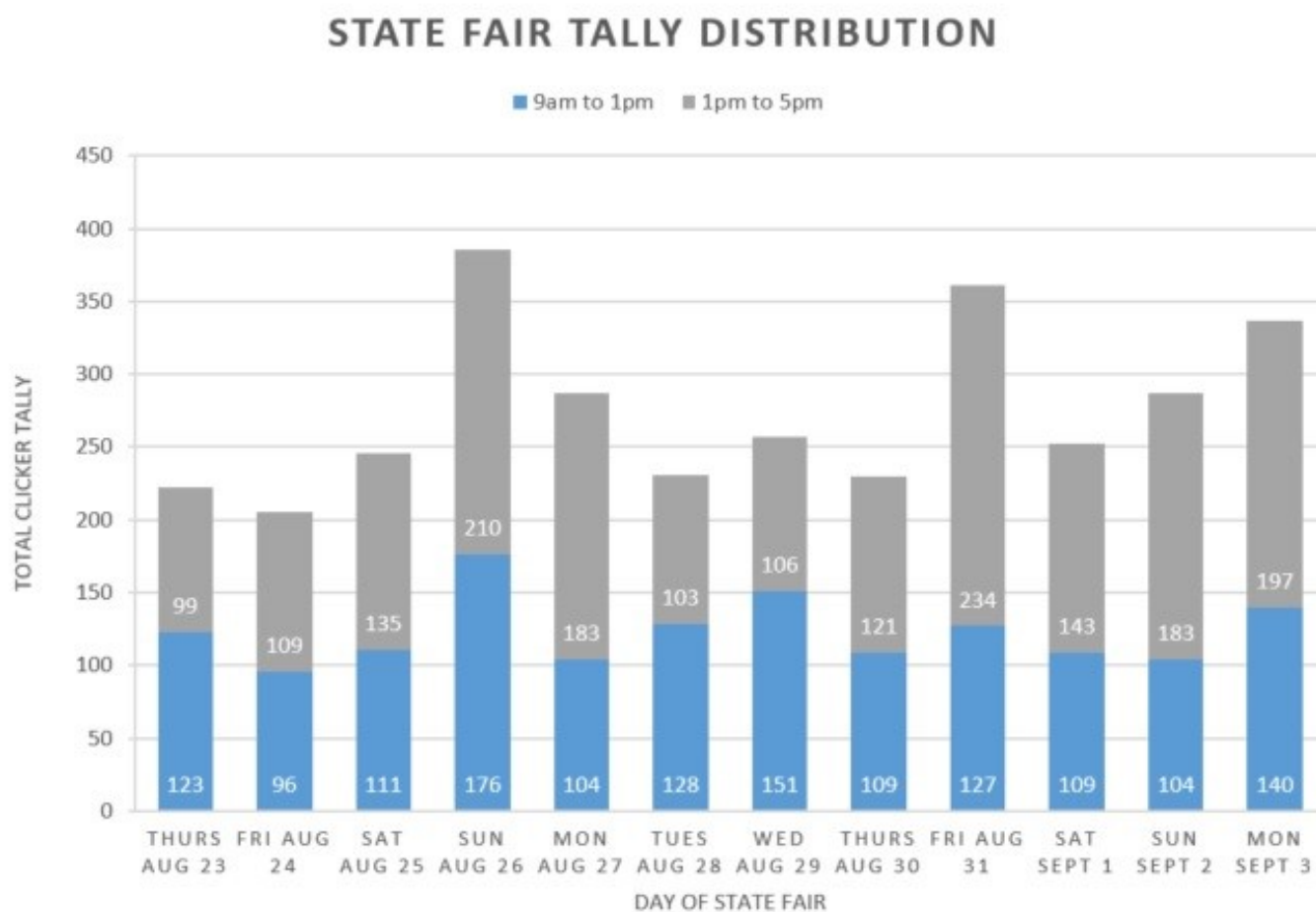
The **“Ask a Tree Care Advisor” booth** in the **Eco Experience** building at the **Minnesota State Fair** has been staffed by Tree Care Advisor volunteers since 2013. The “Ask a Tree Care Advisor” booth was originally a **one-time addition** to the Climate Change area, but an invitation from the **Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA)** was extended to return and has since become a **permanent** fixture. The public can ask tree and shrub related questions at the booth during all **12 days** of the Minnesota State Fair and youth can participate in the building-wide Bingo game at this booth. Over the past 5 years, 840 hours of open booth time has been staffed by volunteers and UMN staff to interact with the public.

In 2018, approximately 576 hours were spent staffing, preparing, and commuting to and from the “Ask a Tree Care Advisor” booth.



State Fair Question Tally Frequency

The following graph shows **how many questions** from the public were asked during each shift and each day of the 2018 State Fair Tree Care Advisor booth.



In 2018, in excess of 3,301 questions were asked by the public at the “Ask a Tree Care Advisor” booth.

Tree Essentials Classes

Tree Essentials are a collection of **educational** workshops offered nearly every Friday from July to early October on the St. Paul campus **UFore Nursery**. Tree Essentials cover an array of tree **care topics and skills**, with each date focusing on **one specific topic**. Tree Essentials workshops are taught by **University of Minnesota** faculty, staff, graduate and undergraduate students. All Tree Essential classes are **open to the public**, with a **discount** offered to Tree Care Advocate volunteers, Master Gardeners, Master Naturalists, and Minnesota Tree Inspectors.

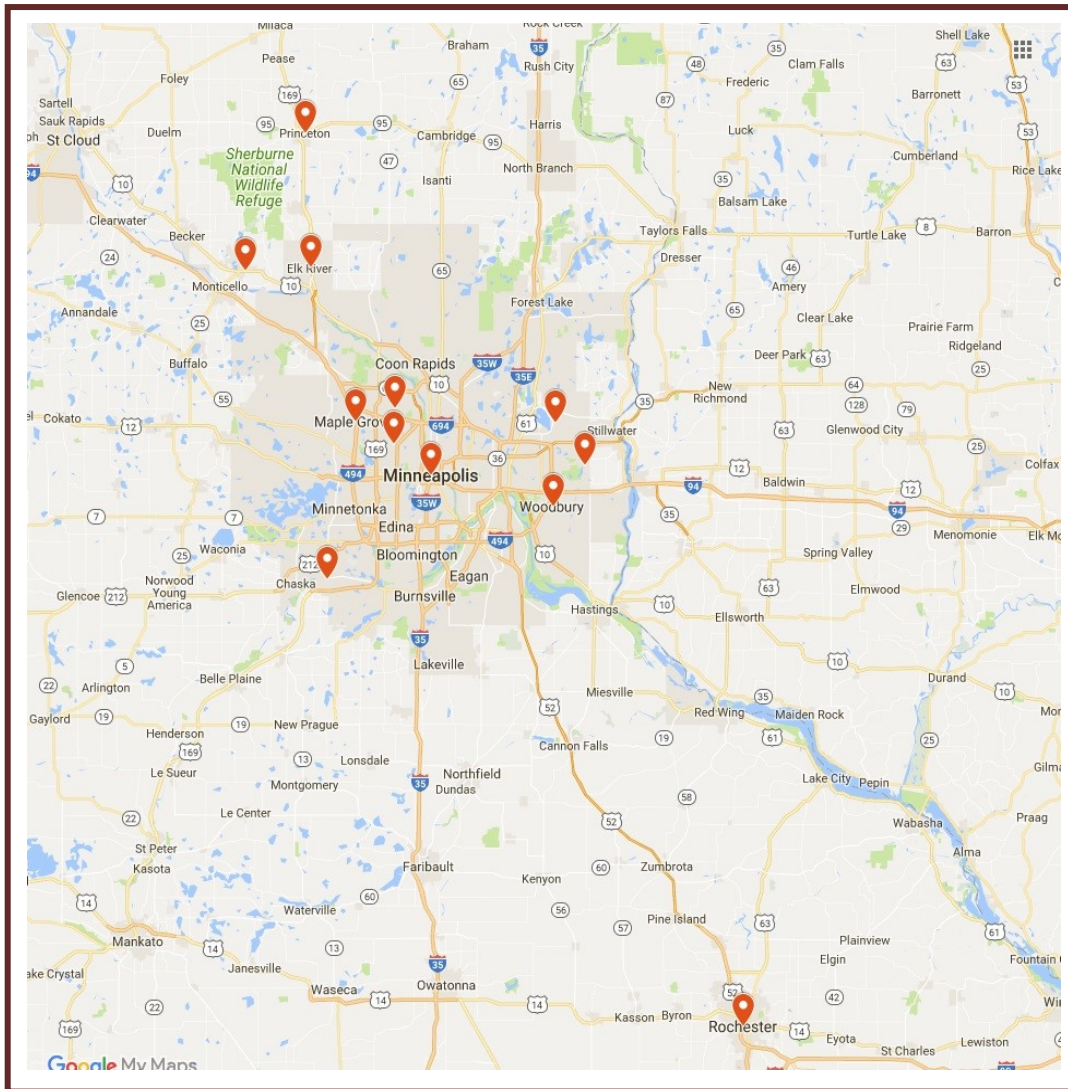
2018 topics included:

- *Edible Landscapes*
- *Grafting 101*
- *Gravel Bed Primer*
- *Maintaining Shrubs & Vines*
- *Managing Aggressives/Invasives*
- *Nontraditional Pruning*
- *Plant Health Issues—Diagnostics*
- *Plant Selection*
- *Predicting/Preventing/Reporting Storm Damage*
- *Pruning Young Trees*
- *Tree Identification*

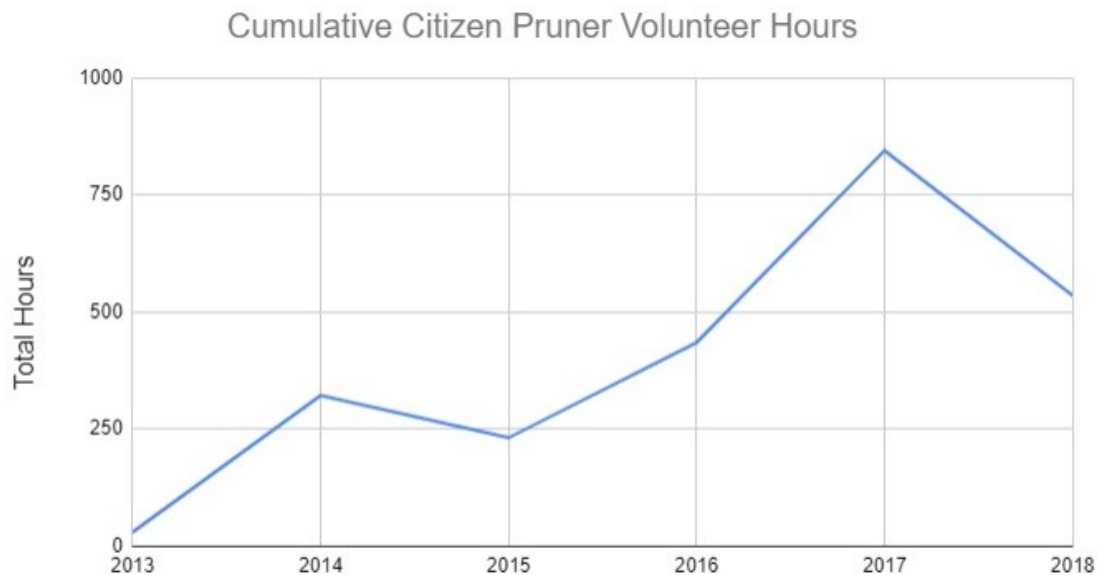
In 2018, a total of 56 individuals attended Tree Essential classes over the course of 3 months.

Minnesota Citizen Pruner

The **Minnesota Citizen Pruner Program** aids in increasing local capacity by working with municipalities and engaging citizens in community forest upkeep. Citizen Pruners are trained in **tree biology, tree species identification and pruning restrictions, pruning techniques, and types of removals** the community requests volunteer to perform. Citizen Pruners are able to manage small branches near the ground while tree care professionals can focus on larger branches higher in the tree canopy. Completing this ground work is vital for **clearing sightlines, blocked sidewalks, and improving the health** of both young and mature trees.



Citizen Pruner Cumulative Hours & Monetary Contribution



In 2018, Citizen Pruners completed a total of 535.5 volunteer hours, meaning from 2013 to the end of 2018, a total of 2,398.20 volunteer hours have been reported.

Year	Total Hours	Hourly Rate *\$ per Hour	Value to MN in \$
2013	30.00	\$23.59	\$707.70
2014	321.60	\$24.31	\$7,818.10
2015	231.60	\$24.83	\$5,570.63
2016	435.00	\$25.20	\$10,962.00
2017	844.50	\$26.40	\$22,294.80
2018	535.50	\$27.58	\$14,769.09

Collectively, monetary contributions from Citizen Pruners between 2013 and 2018 totals \$66,142.36 (based on 2017 figures).

Minnesota Citizen Pruner Accomplishments

The following data was collected for all of the participating Citizen Pruner communities:
Minneapolis, Oakdale, Newport & St. Paul Park, and Sherburne County.

Community	Hours	Monetary Value	Active Volunteers	# Trees Pruned	Suckers/ Sprouts Removed	Light Pruning	Develop- mental Pruning	Materials Removed	Trees Reported
Minneapolis	138.5	\$3,819.83	23	641	621	89	0	7	0
Oakdale, Newport, & St. Paul Park	57	\$1,572.06	7	144	33	128	72	10	1
Sherburne County	340	\$9,377.20	15	417	232	228	143	8	13
Totals:	535.5	\$14,769.09	45	1,202	886	445	215	25	14

*In 2018, 45 Minnesota Citizen Pruners
dedicated their time to volunteerism.*

Minnesota Tree Steward

The **Minnesota Tree Steward Program** is a community-based program where city/county staff or representatives will request **customized volunteer education** and **hands-on training** for its citizens. This education allows citizens to get involved with multiple aspects of tree care and to act as a **leader** and a **second pair of eyes** for the community. Activities vary based on the needs of the community, but generally fall into the categories of: **best planting practices, watering, best pruning practices, and tree health monitoring**. Volunteers may fulfill service hours either **independently** or by attending community hosted volunteer **events**.

In 2018, 12 Minnesota Tree Stewards dedicated their time to volunteerism and self-reported volunteer accomplishments.

Minnesota Tree Steward Accomplishments

The following data was collected for the following participating Citizen Pruner communities:
Arlington, Hennepin County, Maple Grove, Morris, and Richfield.

Community	Hours	Monetary Value	Active Volunteers	Hours Spent Planting	Hours Spent Pruning	Hours Spent Watering	Hours Spent Monitoring Tree Health
Arlington	31	\$854.98	1	0	4	0	27
Hennepin County	28	\$772.24	5	0	0	0	28
Maple Grove	136	\$3,750.88	1	0	0	0	136
Morris	73.5	\$2,027.13	4	0	1	2	66.5
Richfield	2.5	\$68.95	1	0	0	0	2.5
Totals:	271	\$7,474.18	12	0	1	2	256

In 2018, Minnesota Tree Stewards completed an average of 22.58 volunteer hours.

Forest Resources Outreach Line

The **Forest Resources Outreach Line** has been staffed by Tree Care Advisors since 2013.

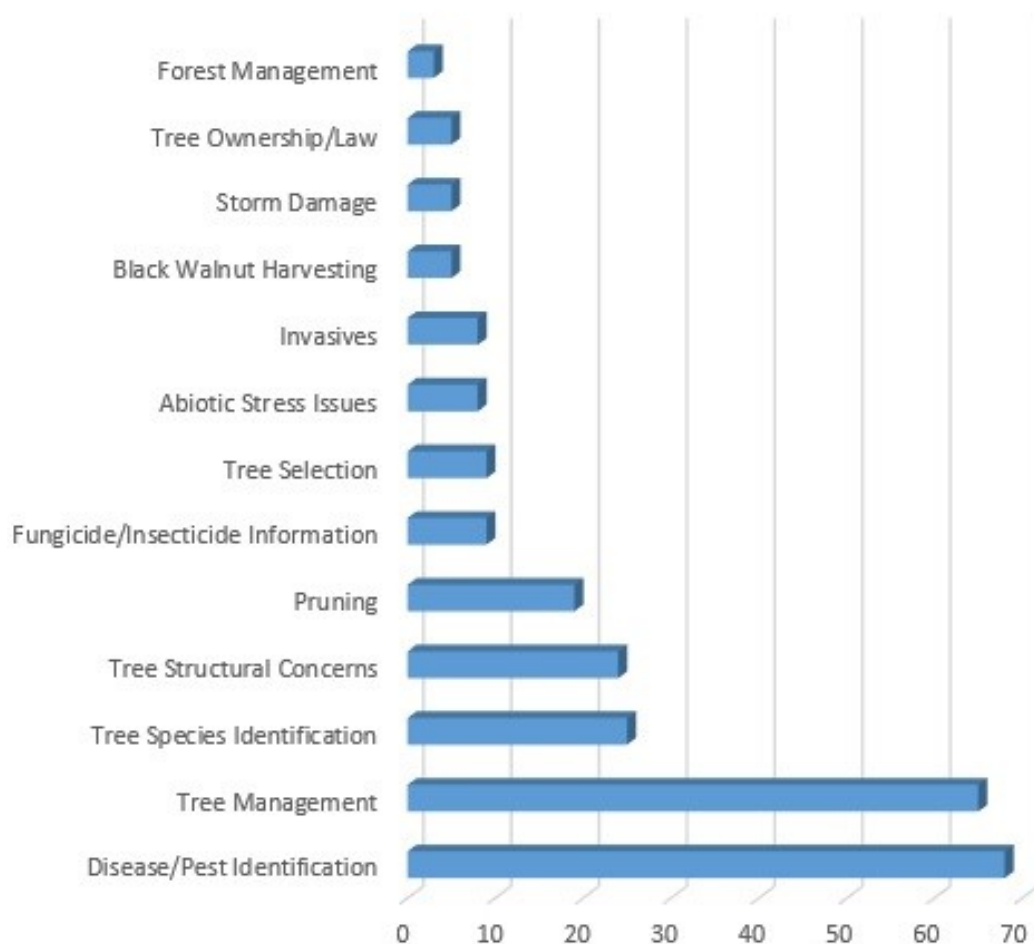
Minnesotans can contact the information help desk throughout the year via two ways: by **phone** or by **e-mail**. Once the phone or email messages are received, Tree Care Advisor volunteers research the resident's tree-related questions and provide them with a **non-biased resolution** to their questions and resources to support the resolution. In 2018, the Outreach Line was staffed by **Annette LeDuc** and **Mary Magers**. Since 2014, volunteers have answered **1,039** questions from the public.

In 2018, volunteers answered 281 questions from the public in total.

Forest Resources Outreach Line—Question Topics

Throughout 2018, many questions reached our volunteers. Below, you can find the breakdown of question topics.

Other topics include but not limited to tree removal, stump management, tree biology, critter damage, maple syruping, tree planting practices, tree appraisal, and finding an arborist.

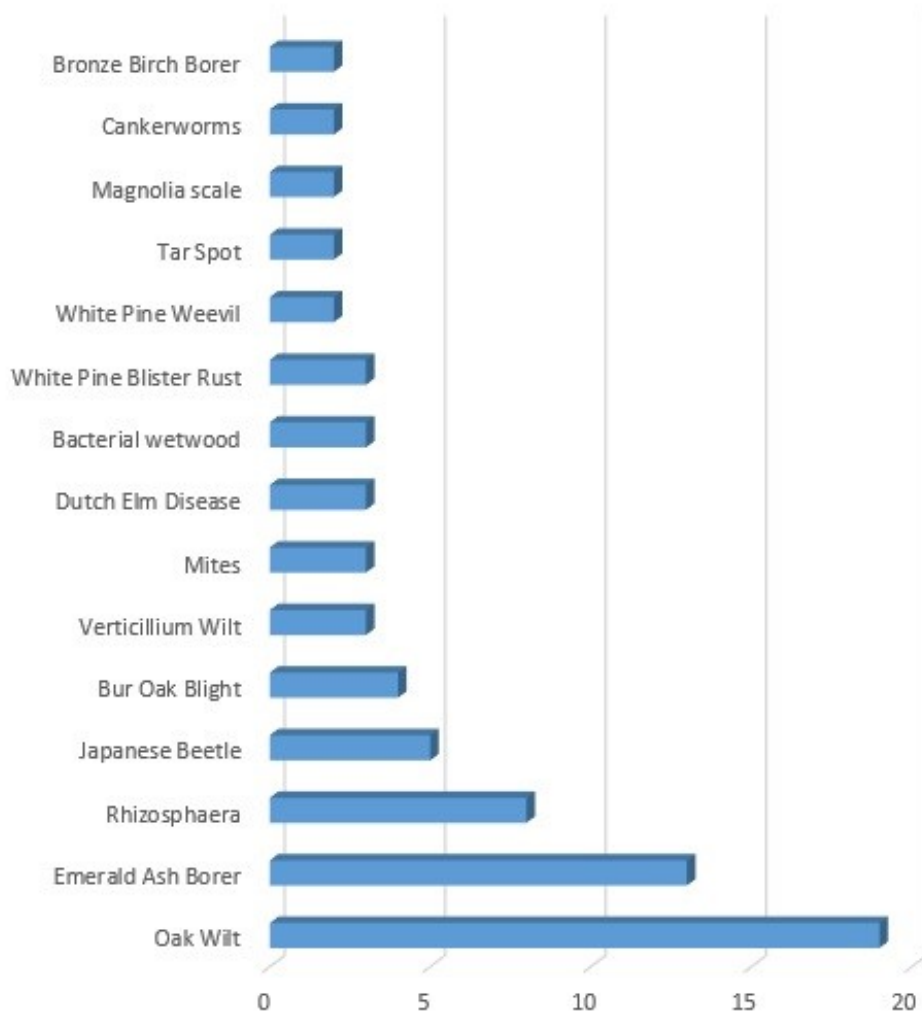


In 2018, 120 of questions were received via phone and 161 questions were received via e-mail.

Forest Resources Outreach Line—Insect/Disease Questions

Below is the breakdown of questions regarding insects and disease. All other questions were not related to a specific insect or disease.

Other topics include but not limited to apple maggot, army worms, black knot, fall webworm, Ichneumonid wasp, lichens, pine bark beetle, sapsucker, and spruce bud worm.



Acknowledgements

Thank you to all Tree Care Advisor,
Citizen Pruner and Tree Steward **volunteers**.

Thank you to all Citizen Pruner and
Tree Steward **community contacts** for bringing
Tree Care Advocate programs to their
communities and citizens.

Thank you to the **Minnesota Department of
Natural Resources Forestry Division** for its 25
years of financial and technical support.

Thank you to the **Minnesota Pollution
Control Agency** for their continued support at
the Minnesota State Fair.