

Minnesota Tree Care Advocate Program

2020 Annual Report



31 *Active Tree Care Advocate Volunteers*

1,080 *Volunteer Hours*

Our Program

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 citizens of the state about their urban forests so that they, in turn, can volunteer in their neighborhoods and communities. This program is currently comprised of three community forestry programs including the Tree Care Advisor Program (1993), the Citizen Pruner Program (2013), and the Tree Steward Program (2016).

COVID-19 Impacts on Volunteerism in 2020

In March of 2020, COVID-19 caused many volunteer activities and trainings to be cancelled for the year due to the need to quarantine and social distance. In order to protect public health, volunteer opportunities were significantly reduced and gathering for training purposes were eliminated for the year. The following impacts on the Tree Care Advocate occurred:

- The Tree Care Advisor Core Course was conducted completely online which reduced the amount of participation due to volunteers desiring in-person education over online education.
- Community-based programming (Citizen Pruner and Tree Steward) were cancelled for the year which yielded no new volunteers within these programs.
- All events were cancelled for the year, sans one in-person Tree Identification workshop which had a total of two participants. Cancelled events included Tree Essentials workshops and the Fall Leaf Learning Conference.
- Volunteers were not required to submit minimum volunteer hours, therefore, only a small portion of volunteers were able to complete and submit volunteer hours for 2020.

2020 Volunteers Trained by Program



9 *Tree Care Advisors trained*



0 *Citizen Pruners trained*



0 *Tree Stewards trained*



2 *people attended workshops & conferences*

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

2020 Accomplishments



889

volunteer hours



22

active volunteers



\$26,172.16

value of volunteer contributions

Overall Accomplishments



110,855

volunteer hours



275

trained volunteers



\$3,263,571.20

value of volunteer contributions

Forest Resources Outreach Line

The over 50 year old Forest Resources Outreach Line is a resource for Minnesotans to ask questions about their trees and shrubs via email or phone call. Tree Care Advisor volunteers assist in answering these questions to provide research-based and a non-biased resolution to their questions. In 2019, Mary Magers and Annette LeDuc managed the outreach line.



206 *questions were received*



74 *residents were advised to contact a city forester or certified arborist*



91 *disease and pest identification questions*



26 *general tree management questions*



81 *questions about specific diseases/insects*

Citizen Pruner Program

The Citizen Pruner program is designed to train community volunteer to clear small and easy accessible branch material in order for arborists and urban foresters to focus on larger pruning needs. These volunteers are asked to complete 10 hours of volunteer work each calendar year to remain active.



Citizen Pruner Accomplishments

2020 Accomplishments



103

volunteer hours



8

active volunteers



\$3,032.32

value of volunteer contributions

Overall Accomplishments



2,837

volunteer hours



236

trained volunteers



\$83,521.28

value of volunteer contributions

Tree Steward Program



The Tree Steward Program is 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 each calendar year to remain active.

Tree Steward Accomplishments

2020 Accomplishments



88

volunteer hours



1

active volunteers



\$2,590.72

value of volunteer contributions

Overall Accomplishments



1,109

volunteer hours



102

trained volunteers



\$32,648.96

value of volunteer contributions