

# Minnesota Tree Care Advocate Program

*2021 Annual Report*



**44** *Active Tree Care Advocate Volunteers*

**1,345** *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 2021

As COVID has persisted into 2021, these programs have again experienced less engagement and fewer possibilities for community-based trainings. The Minnesota Tree Can Advocate Program has stood by the concerns of the volunteers and communities they have worked with in continuing to exercise caution which has reduced opportunities for involvement. Listed below are a few of the ways we were able to engage with volunteers throughout 2021:

- The Tree Care Advisor Core Course was conducted primarily over Zoom with a single day outdoor field session for volunteers-in-training to practice their hands on skills.
- Tree Essentials workshops were held both over Zoom and as outdoor field workshops in order to accommodate as many individuals as possible.
- A select few Tree Steward and Citizen Pruner trainings were conducted in Minnesota communities via a Zoom presentation and an outdoor field session.
- Tree Care Advisor volunteers were able to participate in the "Ask a Tree Care Advisor" Q&A booth at the Minnesota State Fair as long as they were comfortable doing so. In 2021, volunteers were able to answer questions for 1,223 visitors

## 2021 Volunteers Trained by Program



**17** *Tree Care Advisors trained*



**5** *Citizen Pruners trained*



**8** *Tree Stewards trained*



**72** *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

### 2021 Accomplishments



**1,261**

*volunteer hours*



**35**

*active volunteers*



**\$37,950.50**

*value of volunteer contributions*

### Overall Accomplishments



**112,080**

*volunteer hours*



**292**

*trained volunteers*



**\$3,472,238.40**

*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.



**188** *questions were received*



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



**63** *disease and pest identification questions*



**38** *general tree management & structural concern questions*



**74** *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

### 2021 Accomplishments



**84.5**

*volunteer hours*



**9**

*active volunteers*



**\$2,617.81**

*value of volunteer contributions*

### Overall Accomplishments



**2,921.5**

*volunteer hours*



**241**

*trained volunteers*



**\$90,508.07**

*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

### 2021 Accomplishments



**35.5**

*volunteer hours*



**1**

*active volunteers*



**\$1,099.79**

*value of volunteer contributions*

### Overall Accomplishments



**1,144.5**

*volunteer hours*



**110**

*trained volunteers*



**\$35,456.61**

*value of volunteer contributions*