

# University of Minnesota Tree Care Volunteer Programs

## 2025 Annual Report



Image: Residents in the Minneapolis Downtown Improvement District learning to properly prune young shade trees

184 Active Tree Care Volunteers served 4,507 hours across Minnesota

# 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 Minnesota 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).



Image: Tree Essentials class attendees learning best planting practices at the UFOR Nursery in September

# Program Updates

**4,507**

Volunteer hours  
logged in 2025

**\$171,987**

Value of 2025  
volunteer  
contributions\*

\*based on 2024 [Independent Sector](#) value data

In 2025, we held six Tree Steward trainings in cities around the state — Hennepin County, Minneapolis Downtown Improvement District, Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board, St. Paul, Washington County (2). We also welcomed 27 people to our Tree Care Advisor Core Course, 19 of whom finished all required classes and assignments to become certified. We also had over 6,600 visits to our Ask a Tree Care Advisor Booth at the Minnesota State Fair.

Based on volunteer feedback, we also upgraded our Tree Care Advisor Program Hub with regular announcements to volunteers regarding the latest tree care research, news, events, funding, and opportunities to volunteer.

### The Volunteer & Programs

Coordinator also hosted an interactive and informational presentation for Minnesota AmeriCorps members on the topic of Volunteer Management and Program Strategy.

In partnership with the Minnesota DNR, we also launched the new Community Starter Kit. These contain research-backed resources, handouts, and hand tools to help new communities jumpstart their program



Image: Hennepin County received the first new Community Starter Kit in March

# 2025 People Trained by Programs

- 19** 19 New certified Tree Care Advisors
- 103** 103 people attended Tree Steward trainings
- 58** 58 People attended Tree Essentials classes



Image: Tree Essentials class attendees leaning about and volunteering at the Marlene Myers DNR School Forest with UMN, School, and DNR staff

## Tree Care Advisor Program



Image: Ask a Tree Care Advisor Booth at the MN State Fair

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 50-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 Program Accomplishments

### 2025 Accomplishments



### Overall Accomplishments



\*based on 2024 Independent Sector value data

## Tree Care Public Outreach Lines

97

Volunteer-managed public inquiry phone calls

86

Volunteer-managed public inquiry emails

The 50+ year old Forest Resources Outreach Line is a resource for Minnesotans to ask questions about trees and shrubs via email or telephone. Tree Care Advisors assist in answering these questions to provide research-based and non-biased resolutions. Common topics include pest and disease issues, identification inquiries, and connections to professional arborists and other forestry personnel.

In 2025, Tree Care Advisors managed the outreach telephone line and answered 97 phone calls. We also launched the Ask a Tree Care Advisor Email Outreach Line, also managed by Tree Care Advisors. We received 86 emails in our first year of this service, which also streamlines data reporting and analysis capabilities.

## 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 regarding 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 and ensure positive ongoing impact.



Image: MPRB Tree Stewards learning pruning skills in September

## Tree Steward Program Accomplishments

### 2025 Accomplishments



**1,160**

volunteer hours



**112**

active volunteers



**\$44,265.60\***

Value of volunteer contributions

\*based on 2024 Independent Sector value data

### Overall Accomplishments



**5,956.50**

volunteer hours



**\$168,120.88**

Value of volunteer contributions