

## Project City Trees Educational Concept

## Bringing Urban &amp; Community Forestry to K-3 Youth

## The Challenge

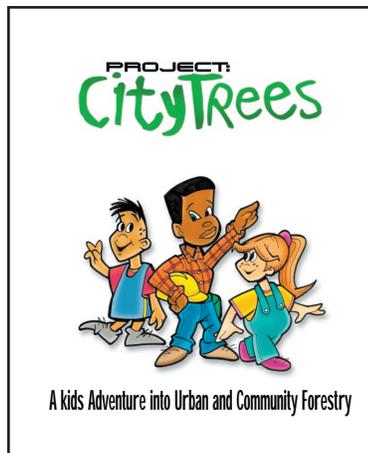
Introducing inner city youth to urban forestry and the natural landscape has been a challenge since many opportunities for experiential learning do not exist in many neighborhoods. Addressing the educational challenges of at risk youth, nontraditional audiences and minority audiences has often not been met in scholastic and after-school programs. Many urban youth in kindergarten through third grade do not have access to environmental educational opportunities or programs. Providing an opportunity for introducing inner city youth to urban forestry educational concepts is a challenge that provides many opportunities and will provide a foundation for an environmentally literate generation.

## The Solution

The USDA Forest Service's Northeast Center for Urban and Community Forestry, has begun the development of a concept aimed providing an introduction to urban and community forestry, aimed at outreach to inner city youth. "Project City Trees" utilizes a series of fictional cartoon characters to introduce educational concepts, related to urban natural resources, to youth in kindergarten through third grade.

- Project City Trees will provide a multimedia approach to the educational concept.
- The concept includes animated video, an interactive web site and teacher and parent study guides.
- Proposed for presentation on cable access, public service and local television broadcast.
- Includes a series of fictional characters who will travel to various locales to experience nature in the city.
- Introduces concepts such as air quality, water resources, tree benefits and wildlife habitat.
- Relates to youth on their intellectual level of experiential learning.

*Project City Trees aims at introducing urban and community forestry educational concepts to inner city youth in kindergarten through third grade.*



Information on Project City trees is available from the Northeast Center for Urban & Community Forestry at <http://www.umass.edu/urbantree>

## Resulting Benefits

- An opportunity for inner city youth to be introduced to urban and community forestry issues and concepts.
- Strong likelihood of acceptance by inner city youth.
- Dissemination of educational materials to a broad geographic area using the internet and media outlets.
- More informed population of inner city residents.
- Long-term accessibility to educational materials, geared toward inner city youth, via web site.
- Opportunities for local partnerships and cooperation among states, Forest Service and local education and forestry professionals.

## Sharing Success

- Northeast Area Civil Rights grant awarded for continued development of project components
- Preliminary strategic planning meeting attended by urban foresters from six New England states, New York, and New Jersey.
- Includes cooperation of FS Conservation Education and U&CF programming staff.
- Internet domain name secured and informational web site being developed.



USDA Forest Service  
Northeastern Area  
State and Private Forestry

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