

Technology and the Urban Forest Conference

Highlighting New Tools for Urban Foresters

The Challenge

Recent advances in technology are providing urban and community foresters with a variety of affordable tools which can assist them in more effective management of urban natural resources. Whether it be looking at the value and condition of individual street trees, to the management of large urban open space, new tools and state-of-the-art solutions are available to the urban and community forester. Unfortunately, many urban foresters are not aware of the recent advances in technology as they relate to their management responsibilities. Widespread distribution of these new technologies and tools is critical in order to ensure that urban forest managers take advantage of effective, and affordable, solutions to managing their urban resources.

The Solution

The USDA Forest Service's Northeast Center for Urban and Community Forestry conducted the region's first "Technology and the Urban Forest" Conference in 2002. This full-day conference was aimed at providing urban forest managers with an overview of the latest tools and technology available for assisting in the care of urban and community trees and forests. The conference highlighted many of the tools available for inventory and mapping, digital photography, remote sensing and the effective use of the Internet as a reference source.

- The conference provided an introduction to advances in Personal Digital Assistant (PDA) software and hardware.
- Geographic Information Systems (GIS) software packages were introduced and their use, as a U&CF management tool, were detailed.
- Affordable alternatives, including shareware and public-domain software packages for inventory and operational management were presented.
- USDA Forest Service, State Natural Resource staff

The Technology and Urban Forest Conference provided urban forest managers with the latest tools and technologies available for use in managing the trees in cities and towns.



Information presented at the Technology and the Urban Forest Conference can be found at www.umass.edu/urbantree/

and commercial vendors participated in the instructional presentations.

- Provided hands-on demonstrations of techniques and tools were provided.

Resulting Benefits

- Participants were introduced to new tools and technologies available for assisting them in the management of the urban & community forest,
- More effective, and affordable, management techniques will be field tested in communities.
- More awareness of the fiscal value of utilizing state-of-the-art tools and technology has been realized in the area of Urban and Community Forestry.

Sharing Success

- Over one-hundred participants attended the conference.
- Tools and technology featured at the conference is featured on the Northeast Center for Urban & Community Forestry's web site.
- A follow-up workshop is planned for February, 2003, in partnership with the New England Chapter of the International Society of Arboriculture.



USDA Forest Service
Northeastern Area
State and Private Forestry

For more information, contact:

Kathryn P. Maloney, Area Director
11 Campus Blvd., Suite 200
Newtown Square, PA 19073
Phone: 610-557-4103
Email: kmaloney@fs.fed.us

David Bloniarz, Project Coordinator
University of Massachusetts
Amherst, MA 01003-4210
Phone: 413-545-3755
Email: dbloniarz@fs.fed.us