From Sketch To Street: Design for the Urban Forest

A Video and CD-ROM Set for Streetscape Design

The Challenge

The use of trees as a component of the urban landscape has often been unsuccessful from many perspectives, including survivability issues, species selection, maintenance concerns and poor aesthetics. Restricted rooting space, limited crown area, overhead and underground utilities, poor soils and compaction often contribute to degrading the quality of streetscape tree plantings. Often, poor design decisions and planning errors contribute to the problem of dead, dying and poorly growing trees in the urban landscape. Education and information, primarily aimed at landscape designers, architects, planners and urban foresters, can help to improve the design choices made when using trees along city and town roadways.

Information on ordering the video and CD-ROM can be found at www.umass.edu/urbantree/videoinfo.shtml

The Solution

The USDA Forest Service's Northeast Center for Urban and Community Forestry, in partnership with the University of Massachusetts/Amherst and National Grid, USA, in cooperation with the states of ME, VT, NH, NY, MA, RI, and CT, developed a new informational video and CD-ROM set that provides an overview of the use of trees as a streetscape element. This video and CD-ROM, titled "From Sketch to Street: Design for the Urban Forest," presents an introduction to the use of trees as a streetscape design element, and outlines key concepts in the successful selection, planting and maintenance of the urban trees. The video has been produced for presentation to landscape architects, planners, arborists, community groups, policy makers and tree boards.

A CD-ROM that contains clips from the video, as well as graphic images used in the video, has also been produced for use on, both, a PC using Windows® or Macintosh® operating systems. The CD-ROM format provides an effective medium for individual review of the instructional materials at one's own workspace and instructional pace.

"From Sketch To Street: Design for the Urban Forest" video and CD-ROM set offers designer and landscape architects an overview of the principles of successfully using trees as streetscape element.

Copies of the video and CD-ROM are available from the USDA Forest Service Northeast Center for Urban and Community Forestry.

Resulting Benefits

- A new educational tool that focuses on a target audience of designers, architects and urban foresters, who often choose the location and type of tree planted along roadways.

- Provides specific information on the use of trees as an element of streetscape design, focusing on physiological factors often overlooked by designers and architects.

- Improves the likelihood of using trees successfully in urban landscape, by improving site selection, species selection and planting considerations.

- Helps to ensure street tree survival in urban and town landscapes.

Sharing Success

- Presented at over 6 regional conferences and at the National U&CF Conference, Washington, D.C.

- Over 300 videos and 500 CD-ROMs distributed to date.

- Available for order via the Internet.

USDA Forest Service
Northeastern Area
State and Private Forestry

October 2002

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