

No Net Loss to the Urban Tree Canopy

Our urban forest cleans the air, shelters wildlife, catches water runoff, cools our homes and makes our city more beautiful. Insects, disease and increasingly construction are taking a toll on our trees, decreasing our urban tree canopy. An impending threat is the emerald ash borer. Since its discovery in Detroit in 2002, this insect has devastated ash trees in Michigan, Indiana and Ohio.

Target

- No net loss of citywide tree canopy cover by 2015.
- Plant at least 2,500 trees on public land annually through 2015.

Trees on boulevards and in public parks managed by the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board in trees

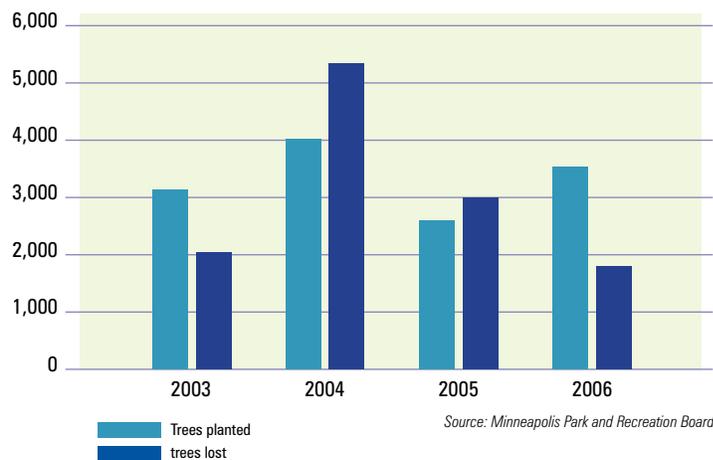


Photo courtesy of Tree Trust

Boy Scouts from Troop 100 plant a tree in the Marcy-Holmes neighborhood. The City and its partners planted more than 6,000 trees and seedlings last year.

Trend Analysis

- The baseline tree canopy, measured in 2004, covers 26 percent of the city¹. After two years of heavy losses from Dutch elm disease, twice as many trees were planted in 2006 than were lost. Tree canopy information has not been updated since 2004.
- The Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board planted an average of more than 3,300 trees along streets and in parks per year from 2003 to 2006. In 2006, more than 1,800 additional trees and saplings were planted by the City and its partners on other public lands.

Recent City and Community Activities

- Provided 1,038 trees to residents for planting in their own yards through an innovative partnership with Tree Trust, a local nonprofit. www.treetrust.org
- Created the seven and a half acre Gold Medal Park through a unique public-private partnership. The Park Development Foundation, which designed, built and will maintain the park, planted 300 large trees in this new public space along Minneapolis' downtown riverfront.
- The Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board (MPRB) planted more than 3,600 street and parkland trees in 2006 and removed invasive species with public, private and neighborhood support on parkland. www.minneapolisparke.org/default.asp?PageID=28
- Groundwork Minneapolis planted 1,400 seedlings on City right of way to establish a buffer between homes in North Minneapolis and the railroad.
- Tree Trust, with support from the City, partnered with residents, the MPRB and others to reclaim two abandoned lots and plant 110 trees near Plymouth Avenue in North Minneapolis.
- The MPRB coordinated more than 500 volunteers, including students and teachers from Nellie Stone Johnson Community School, to plant 66 trees as part of National Arbor Day.
- Friends of the Mississippi River and 323 volunteers removed buckthorn and other invasive species to restore oak savannah and maple basswood forest remnants along the Mississippi River gorge. www.fmr.org/stewards.html
- Midtown Community Works planted 85 trees and 219 bushes along the Midtown Greenway. www.midtowncommunityworks.org/ArborDay2006_001.html

¹ U.S. Forest Service, Urban Forest Effects Model study, 2004

Web Links & Resources

- Minneapolis' Urban Forest www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/sustainability/urbantreecanopy.asp
- Minneapolis Committee on Urban Environment (CUE) www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/cue