

The Renewable Resources Extension Act (RREA) Program at the University of Connecticut, FY 2008

The University of Connecticut Renewable Resources Extension Act (RREA) program is designed, implemented, and evaluated to help better protect, replace, manage, and conserve municipal trees and community forests to improve urban quality of life and to ensure both local and state-wide urban environmental sustainability in Connecticut cities, towns, and villages. The RREA program is integrated and networked extensively with critical partners to deliver targeted education programs primarily to municipal tree wardens, community volunteers, and elected and appointed officials. Programs are designed to provide essential, current, and timely information and to motivate people to apply new knowledge learned. From October 1, 2007 to September 30, 2008, each RREA dollar leveraged approximately \$6.88 from grants, education event fees, publication purchases, and organization membership dues.

Examples of RREA funds use this past year include:

- Twenty-one tree wardens, deputy tree wardens, and municipal engineers participated in the 10th annual Tree Warden School and Certification Program (begun in 1998). To date, 260 key municipal people responsible for community forestry activities have passed the final course exam and continue to obtain required continuation education credits to maintain their certification.
- Fifteen community urban forestry volunteers participated in the annual Meskwaka Tree Project educational program designed to educate and motivate community leaders to design and implement community-based public tree management programs. Since 1992, 382 volunteers have participated in this program.
- Through direct engagement with urban forestry stakeholders, 667 contacts were made in one-on-one sessions, two workshops, one annual state-wide urban forestry conference, and seven public presentations with community forestry groups, conservation commissions, planning and zoning boards, and select boards.



Tree wardens, municipal officials, and town engineers participating in risk tree assessment exercises at the 2008 Tree Warden School.

“Our ability to serve our constituents would virtually cease if not for our partnership with UConn Cooperation Extension.” - Fred Borman, Forestry Program Specialist, CT Div. of Forestry

University of Connecticut RREA contact: Robert M. Ricard, Senior Extension Educator, Urban Natural Resources and Public Management, Greater Hartford Extension Center, 1800 Asylum Avenue, West Hartford, CT 06117-2600; telephone: 860 570-9257; email: robert.ricard@uconn.edu