

PARTNERS IN COMMUNITY FORESTRY

2024 CONFERENCE



Tree Care Volunteer Programs with the University of Minnesota



URBAN FORESTRY
OUTREACH & RESEARCH

UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA



PRESENTED BY:

Sonja Tosteson

Volunteer & Partnerships Coordinator, University of Minnesota

People helping trees help communities

ABOUT US



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The Minnesota Tree Care Advocate volunteer program (MNTCA) is part of the Urban Forestry Outreach & Research (UFOR) Lab & Nursery with the University of Minnesota's Department of Forest Resources.

The program aims to develop a network of trained, community-based volunteers to assist state agencies, municipalities, local organizations, and residents across Minnesota in cultivating robust and thriving urban and community forests.

Funding for this program comes from the Minnesota Department of National Resources and USDA Forest Service.



Minnesota Tree Care Advocate Program

4,096

Volunteer Hours
Logged in 2023

\$141,189

Value of Volunteer
2023 Contributions

Tree Care Advisors

Community-based
individuals



Tree Care Advisors

Who we are

- Tree-loving individuals across the state led by UMN UCF Volunteer & Partnerships Coordinator
- Volunteerism is focused on public tree care and education, advocacy, and overall community canopy health
- Founded in 1993 through a grant with the USFS





Research-based education and training

- Core Course (offered each spring)
- Tree Care Advisor Program Hub (online)
- Continuing education requirement
- Periodic announcements
- UFOR's Quarterly Tree Care Newsletter
- Opt-in: Weekly newsletter from Minnesota Shade Tree Advisory Committee (MnSTAC)



Volunteerism

- Commitment of 25 hours per year
- Primary goal is for volunteers to create and find their own opportunities that match their passion, skills, and knowledge with what the local community wants
- UMN-hosted “Ask A Tree Care Advisor Booth” at the MN State Fair

Tree Care Advisors in action



Sharing research-based information



Coming together at the Minnesota State Fair



Painting tree cookies at a community event

Tree Stewards

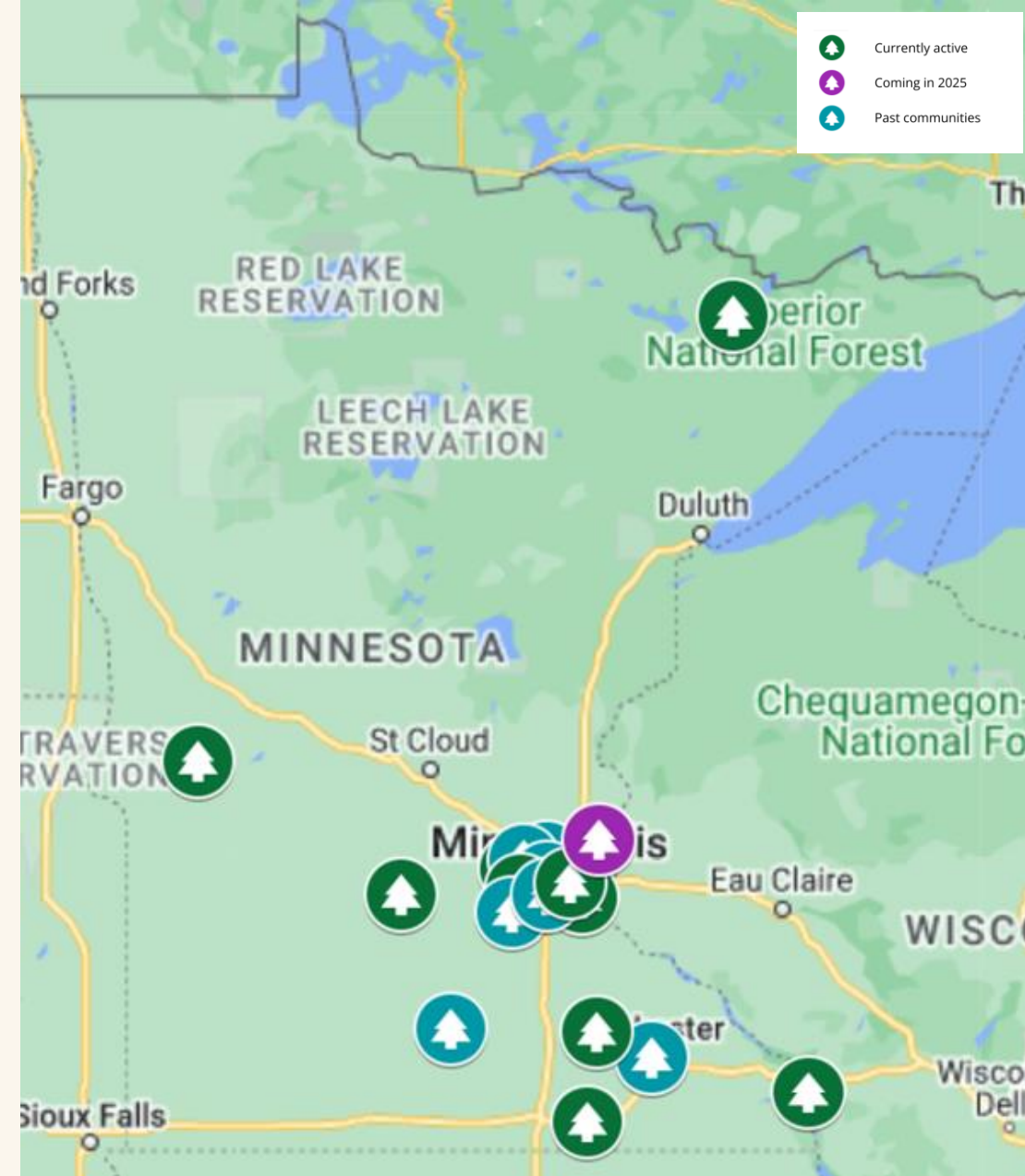
Community-based groups



Tree Stewards

Who we are

- Group of tree-minded folks led by a local tree care champion, in concert with municipal staff
- The UMN partners with the community to kickstart the program and provide research-based education and training over time
- Volunteerism focuses on caring for public trees
- Founded in 2015





Program benefits

- Creating local nonformal educators and engagement leaders
- Boosting best planting practices
- Increasing ongoing care for newly planted trees
- Providing developmental pruning for young trees
- Scouting potentially troublesome situations



Research-based education and training

- Free initial in-person training led by UMN staff (~6 hours), combining indoor and outdoor sessions
- Tree Steward Manual
- Short assessment
- Encourage 10 hours of volunteerism per year and/or 3 local events
- Recertify every 3 years
- Ongoing in-person workshops as requested
- UFOR's Quarterly Tree Care Newsletter

Tree Stewards in action



Minnetonka



West Concord



Austin

Branching out

Insights into creating a
volunteer program



Starting tips



Defining your purpose



You are not alone



Planning in tree time

Being solutions-focused



Working with professionals



Lights, camera, action!



Getting uncomfortable

Rising with roots



Seeing beings



Infusing joy



Watering your own tree

Thank you



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CEUs

For ISA CEUs, record the code to the right for each session.

Post conference, you can submit all Your CEU codes within the Conference app.

Sign-in sheets for Society of American Foresters (SAF) CFE credits are available at the registration desk post conference.

Tree Care Volunteer Programs with the University of Minnesota

Speaker:

Sonja Tosteson



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