

Municipal Arborists Survey Reveals MORE FUNDS FOR TREE CARE

DUTCH ELM DISEASE may yet be credited with a constructive contribution—that of calling public attention to the work of the municipal arborists, foresters, and park personnel.

A survey of 67 municipalities by the Society of Municipal Arborists reveals that tree removals are up sharply and that 70% of them are due to Dutch Elm Disease.

The resulting tone of their reports is that budgets have been increased, new equipment has been authorized or purchased, tree nurseries have been established, and new tree planting projects initiated.

Citing a significant increase in budget, Kenneth R. Neal of Elmhurst, Ill., believes it "indicates that thinking is with the field of arboriculture and minds are becoming aware of the need for maintenance of street trees and beautification."

The biggest budget increase—but for special reasons—was at Toledo, Ohio, where the capital improvements budget jumped from a half-million to \$9,065,000. Projects included clean-up of \$5 million in storm damage, the beginning of a 1,500-acre greenbelt development, and 100% expansion of office staff.

Total tree removals reported by the 67 communities were 87,618 during the fall of 1969 and spring of 1970. Total trees planted during the same period were 95,591. Some of the larger plantings and removals are listed in Fig. 1 and 2.

Removal reasons other than Dutch Elm Disease included other diseases, storm damage, dieback, general decline, street construction, vandalism and vehicle damage, new trees which did not survive, and salt, sewer and sidewalk trouble.

Aphids were reported as the prime insect problem in 18 communities. Other pests were fall cankerworm, caterpillars, leaf hoppers, gypsy moth, elm leaf beetle, red spider mites, bagworms, obscure scale, oak moth, mimosa webworm, oyster shell scale, and 17-year locust.

Diseases ranking after Dutch Elm Disease were cottony maple scale, maple decline, verticillium wilt, canker stain, oak leaf skeletonizer, fire blight, oak kernels, European elm scale, and oak chlorosis.

Aerial bucket lifts were the most frequently mentioned equipment item purchased in the past year. Others included tree spades, stumpers, chippers, trucks, log loaders,

and sprayers.

Here is a sampling of achievements in past year that SMA members listed:

HARTFORD, CONN., Charles Meli and J. E. Allen — Participated in HUD's urban beautification program.

HIGHLAND PARK, ILL., David L. Kussow—Planted flower beds for downtown beautification.

RIVER FOREST, ILL., Michael W. Bearden—Inaugurated a public relations program.

MASON CITY, IA., Sterle E. Crandall — Ordinance passed allowing trees to be planted in downtown area.

WICHITA, KAN., John G. Firsching — Convinced community to go along with a planting program incorporating a wide variety of functional trees.

NEW ORLEANS, LA., August Catalano—Renovated Jackson and Lafayette squares; spent \$150,000 to replace equipment; increased tulip bulb plantings to 100,000; planted Sabal Palms in median strip of Canal St.; and landscaped Rivergate Exhibition Center.

DANVERS, MASS., James T. Prinitis—Started a three-acre tree nursery.

BIRMINGHAM, MICH., Darrel C. Middlewood—Carried out tree-planting program in park land along river and resumed master street tree plan work.

MONROE, MICH., Julius Purvins — Started maintenance program, specifically watering and fertilizing trees.

MINNEAPOLIS, MINN., Dave De Voto—Annual budget increased from

\$450,000 to \$1,149,000; re-established board-owned nursery; imposed severe crackdown on and enforced inspection of construction work where trees are involved, in effort to prevent damage.

LINCOLN, NEB., Emilio L. Fontana—Developed tree nursery and planted trees on downtown streets.

OMAHA, NEB., Orville K. Hatcher—Planted six blocks of planter trees downtown.

NUTLEY, N.J., Peter Childs — Established municipal nursery; began master street tree plan; and increased budget 100%.

COLUMBUS, OHIO, Alex Wynstra, Jr.—Proposal has been made to utilize the front foot assessment program to finance the forestry program.

BURLINGTON, VT., Sid Baker—Started nursery on state land.

PORTSMOUTH, VA., Thomas O. Eaton — Installed landscape plantings, decorative signs, park fences, park benches, fountain and pool under \$70,480 Urban Beautification Grant; participated in planning for new \$80,000 project; initiated pilot project of container street trees; beautified land cleared in the downtown area by the city redevelopment and housing authority.

EAU CLAIRE, WIS., Fred Baumgartner — Began master street tree plan; planted flowering trees at park entrances.

MOOSE JAW, SASKATCHEWAN, CANADA, Andre R. Gate—Established minimum size for street tree planting at seven feet, began master street tree program; and used planter boxes on Main St.

WINNIPEG, CANADA, Martin E. Benum—Increased budgets for tree maintenance and planting; changed legislation to put teeth into the tree policy.

FIG. 1. Tree-Planting Projects

21,400 — Milwaukee, Wis.	2,255 — Richmond, Va.
6,714 — Baltimore, Md.	1,731 — New Orleans, La.
5,213 — Toledo, Ohio	1,478 — Dayton, Ohio
4,083 — Rochester, N. Y.	1,343 — Pontiac, Mich.
3,297 — Cleveland, Ohio	1,272 — Portsmouth, Va.
3,141 — Flint, Mich.	1,187 — Minneapolis, Minn.
2,567 — Aurora, Colo.	1,084 — Philadelphia, Pa.
2,457 — Detroit, Mich.	1,080 — Tonawanda, N. Y.
2,364 — Midland, Mich.	1,000 — Buffalo, N. Y.

FIG. 2. Tree-Removal Projects

15,737 — Milwaukee, Wis.	2,228 — Flint, Mich.
10,623 — Detroit, Mich.	2,043 — Cleveland, Ohio
5,120 — Des Moines, Iowa	1,868 — Lincoln, Neb.
5,000 — Buffalo, N. Y.	1,641 — Toledo, Ohio
4,906 — Rochester, N. Y.	1,550 — New Orleans, La.
3,500 — Topeka, Kans.	1,500 — Richmond, Va.
3,500 — Omaha, Neb.	1,473 — Philadelphia, Pa.
3,250 — St. Louis, Mo.	1,375 — Akron, Ohio
2,983 — Dayton, Mo.	1,350 — Monmouth County, N. J.
2,790 — Wichita, Kans.	1,023 — Evanston, Ill.
2,708 — Baltimore, Md.	