

## Description

Connecticut ReLeaf is a program that acknowledges and rewards quality urban and community forestry efforts, through the recognition of those cities, towns, neighborhoods and institutions that practice exemplary urban and community forestry.

The principal purposes of Connecticut ReLeaf are to:

- Reward cities, towns, neighborhoods and institutions for their good work in sustainable urban and community forestry.
- Provide peer-to-peer examples for other Connecticut cities, towns, neighborhoods and institutions to emulate.
- Encourage others to increase and/or improve urban and community forestry efforts.

Connecticut ReLeaf fosters *long-term and sustainable* urban and community forestry programs throughout Connecticut. It relies on standards known to promote the long-term care and maintenance of the trees in our communities. Connecticut ReLeaf is designed uniquely for the state, its communities, heritage, government, people, ecology, and future needs.

## Criteria

Six major criteria have been determined to be critical indicators of exemplary and sustainable urban and community forestry programs in Connecticut cities, towns, and neighborhoods.

- 1. Citizen Education and Training:** All members of a community must understand and recognize the benefits and importance of a healthy urban forest. The purpose of this criterion is to recognize educational efforts on behalf of urban forestry in the community.
- 2. Professional Training and Development:** A city, town, neighborhood, or institution must have people who are skilled, experienced, and knowledgeable in urban and community forestry. Skills range from risk tree assessment, tree planting, tree maintenance, to fund-raising, law and organizational management. The purpose of this criterion is to recognize those groups that have people who have professional training contributing to the efforts of the group.
- 3. Inter-Agency Cooperation:** Many groups have concerns about urban trees for many different reasons. Examples include highways departments, utility companies, public works departments, and citizen organizations.
- 4. Budget and Capital Resources:** Cooperation between (even within) agencies is critical for the long-term sustainability. The purpose of this criterion is to recognize cooperation between and among the many stakeholders of the urban forest. The purpose of this criterion is to recognize cities, towns, neighborhoods, and institutions who make sufficient funds available on a consistent basis for urban forestry.
- 5. Planning and Management:** Planning and management tools, such as inventories, master plans, and planting plans, are critical for sustaining healthy urban forests. The purpose of this criterion is to recognize those communities who have developed and are using planning and management tools for urban forestry.
- 6. Community Involvement and Public Events:** The purpose of this criterion is to recognize wider community involvement in urban forestry activities.

## Details on Applying

In order to apply, a community must complete the application provided by the Connecticut Urban Forest Council and return by the deadline of Sept. 15, 2004.

The Connecticut Urban Forest Council will review each of the completed applications and rate each applicant in accordance with the six criteria.

Communities must demonstrate that they have met or surpassed the standards in at least five of the six criteria in order to qualify as a Connecticut ReLeaf Community.

Successful communities will be notified of their status by the end of September. An award will be presented to each successful community at the Annual Conference of the Connecticut Urban Forest Council, which will occur in late October.

Community designations will be for two years - successful communities will not need to apply the following year to retain their award.

**For an application, please contact Bob Ricard, Urban Forester and Extension Educator with the University of Connecticut Cooperative Extension in West Hartford.**

**Telephone: (860) 570-9257**

**FAX: (860) 570-9008**

**e-mail: robert.ricard@uconn.edu**

Please be sure to leave your name, the name of the community or organization you are representing, your phone number, and your address.

You may also leave your e-mail address if you choose.

*Good luck, and remember - completed applications are due by September 15, 2004!*





*Recognizing Exemplary Urban and Community Forestry in Connecticut*

Connecticut Releaf is a program developed by the Connecticut Urban Forest Council that acknowledges and rewards quality urban and community forestry efforts throughout Connecticut.

Connecticut Releaf seeks to recognize quality urban and community forestry programs in our:

- Cities
  - Towns
    - Neighborhoods
      - Institutions

Any community that feels that their urban and community program is qualified should consider applying for recognition. Included inside are details on how to apply.



The Connecticut Urban Forest Council is a leadership organization working on behalf of urban and community forestry in Connecticut. Membership is representative of the many organizations and institutions active in this important natural and social resource issue.

Does your community represent excellence in urban and community forestry?

If so, the Connecticut Urban Forest Council would like to recognize and reward your community, as a model of exemplary urban and community forestry in Connecticut.

Would you like your community to be a Connecticut ReLeaf Community?