



CLEAN Community Challenge Success Story: Community Tree Planting Program Jasper, Indiana



Background

The CLEAN stakeholder committee selected this tree planting program as one of their five CLEAN goals. The city is working towards becoming a Tree City USA participant in the future.

Goal

Plant at least 100 native trees annually on city property and remove diseased, dying, and weed trees.

Action Plan and Tasks Completed

- Defined areas that had been cleared or were to be cleared of invasive species and identified areas where more plantings were needed
- Hired a contractor for removals of invasive species such as Ailanthus and grapevines from city properties, preventing them from reproducing further
- Planned an annual tree giveaway day to provide education and outreach on the importance of planting native trees; developed a marketing plan to notify the public of the events
- Developed a tracking system for the number of trees planted

Accomplishments

Since the beginning of its CLEAN program in 2010, the city of Jasper has planted a total of 400 native trees on city property and has given away a total of 1,500 free trees to members of the community. In the first two years of the program, the city parks department budget covered the cost of the trees. However, in 2012 the city partnered with Patoka 2000, a division of the Jasper Chamber of Commerce, to share the expense of the trees to enable more trees to be purchased for the giveaway event.

Trees were obtained from the Indiana Department of Natural Resources (DNR), Division of Forestry, at a very reasonable average cost of \$.33 per tree. Ten different tree species, all native to Indiana, were purchased in 2012. The city drove to the nursery to pick-up the trees in order to save money on delivery costs.

Each of the annual giveaway events was held in April to coincide with Earth Day and was advertised on radio and in newspapers. Public turnout was extremely successful for each event. Instructions were given to each recipient about how to plant and take care of the trees, and “call before you dig” information was available.

Year	# of Trees Given Away	# of Trees Planted on City Property
2010	200	100
2011	400	200
2012	900	100

Savings

Savings for this project are difficult to measure in dollars, but are reflected in its positive environmental impacts. Planting trees improves air quality; improves property values; provides shade to buildings, thus reducing energy costs; improves community aesthetics; and creates a sense of community pride.

Recommendations from the city of Jasper

The tree giveaway program has been a very positive experience and an easy way to boost public perceptions of the community.

DNR, Division of Forestry, makes native Indiana trees available through an annual tree seedling purchase. Any citizen or municipality of Indiana can order trees by November 1 and pick up the trees beginning April 1 of the following year. The two Indiana DNR Nurseries with this tree program are:

- For northern Indiana - Jasper-Pulaski Nursery in Medaryville (219-843-4827) jaspurnursery@dnr.in.gov
- For southern Indiana - Vallonia Nursery in Vallonia (812-358-3621) vallonianursery@dnr.in.gov

For more information about ordering seedlings through DNR, please visit <http://www.in.gov/dnr/forestry/3606.htm>.



Clean Community Committee members Mike Oeding, Al Kiefer, and Ed Hollinden set up for 3rd Annual Tree Giveaway.



A steady line of citizens await their turn to pick out trees.



A grandfather and granddaughter enjoy the day at the annual tree giveaway.