



# Branching Out

## Northern Kentucky Urban & Community Forestry Council's 2008 Trees in our Communities Grant Program

This funding opportunity (\$8,000) is sponsored by the Kentucky Division of Forestry through Northern Kentucky Urban & Community Forestry Council, with financial support from the U.S. Forest Service. Funding range is \$500-\$2,500 for urban forestry projects in Boone, Campbell and Kenton counties.

Grant funds are awarded on a 50/50 matching basis. No more than 50% of the project total can be paid with grant funds. Grantees must match their grant funds with at least 50% non-federal funds and/or contributions (i.e. volunteer time, donated materials, cash, etc.)

### PROGRAM

#### OBJECTIVES:

- Improve understanding of the benefits of preserving existing tree cover in urban areas and communities.
- Encourage owners of private residences and commercial properties to maintain trees and expand forest cover on their properties.
- Develop tree boards and tree ordinances in local communities.
- Provide educational programs and technical assistance to non-profit local organizations.
- Promote the establishment of demonstration projects to il-

lustrate the benefits of forest cover and trees.

- Implement a tree-planting program.
- Enhance the technical skills of individuals involved in the planning, development, and maintenance of urban and community forestry programs.
- Implement the State Urban Forestry Strategic Plan, "Planning for a Greener Kentucky." <http://www.forestry.ky.gov/programs/urban/>

#### ELIGIBLE GRANTEES:

- Local Units of Government (city or county)
- Neighborhood Associations
- Educational Institutions
- Non-Profit Organizations
- Civic Groups
- Community Tree Volunteer Groups

Application Deadline: February 6, 2008, 4:30 p.m.

Applications can be obtained at <http://www.nkyurbanforestry.org>

\*There may be a grant application assistance workshop for interested applicants in January 2008 — check back for details.

# The 'Sky's the Limit' with New Loch Norse Arboretum

Bill Moulton, Northern Kentucky University

Northern Kentucky University (NKU) has been awarded a \$7,990 Urban and Community Forestry Assistance Grant to establish an educational arboretum on the grounds surrounding Loch Norse. The tentatively-named "Loch Norse Arboretum" will provide opportunities for NKU students, faculty, staff and the general public to learn about and appreciate trees that are appropriate to the Northern Kentucky region.

As a living sanctuary and outdoor classroom, the Loch Norse Arboretum will:

- Support teaching, learning, research and public outreach activities;
- Promote interesting and locally appropriate plant collections;
- Encourage outdoor leisure and nature appreciation; and,
- Serve as a model of urban forestry and environmental stewardship.

The Loch Norse Arboretum was proposed by Bill Moulton, Superintendent of Roads and Grounds, Horticulture and Transportation, with assistance from Gordie Bennett of the Office of Campus Planning and Dr. Maggie Whitson of the Department of Biological Sciences. Grant funding comes from the Kentucky Division of Forestry's Urban and Community Forestry Assistance program, which seeks to encourage local government and citizen involvement in creating and supporting long-term and sustained urban and community forestry projects.

Grant funds will be used to obtain, install and label trees that are suitable to the soils and slopes at Loch Norse. Trees have been carefully selected to include species that are currently unrepresented or underrepresented on campus. Each tree will be labeled with its common name, scientific name and geographic origin. Plants from unique genera will be



Loch Norse, NKU Main Campus

grouped together and oriented so that they are easily seen from walkways in the lake area.

Please contact Bill Moulton at (859) 572-5445 for more information about the Loch Norse Arboretum. Visit <http://www.forestry.ky.gov/programs/urban/> for further details about the Division of Forestry's Urban and Community Forestry Assistance program.



## "TREES PAY US BACK" *Tree Board Conference*

*Sarah Gracey, Kentucky Division of Forestry*

Mark your calendars now to attend the Third Annual Statewide Tree Board Conference "Trees Pay Us Back" to be held in Lexington on March 8, 2008.

An evening social will be held the evening before at the University of Kentucky Arboretum. The conference will be held on Saturday at the Fayette County Cooperative Extension Service Office. Nationally acclaimed speaker Dr. Kathleen Wolf from the University of Washington will be the featured speaker and will discuss the economic and social benefits of community trees. Other speakers will present a variety of urban forestry topics.

The conference is available at no cost to attendees. Tree board members, local government officials, and citizen tree enthusiasts are welcome to attend. For more information about the conference or to register, please contact Tim Queary at 859-425-2886 or e-mail: [tqueary@lfucg.com](mailto:tqueary@lfucg.com)

We all know the benefits of the urban forest in Northern Kentucky are more than the amenity and aesthetic values of the trees. While the trees provide important amenity values, such as shade, screening, and landscape enhancement, they also perform the following beneficial functions that can be translated into economic value:

- Removal of air pollutants, including ozone (O<sub>3</sub>), carbon monoxide (CO), sulfur dioxide (SO<sub>2</sub>), nitrogen dioxide (NO<sub>2</sub>), and particulate matter less than 10 microns (PM10)
- Decrease energy costs (e.g., shading and cooling effects of trees)
- Stormwater mitigation
- Carbon storage and sequestration
- Increase property value

To prove and document the value of the important environmental and economic services trees provide our region, the Council completed a project that focused on the quantifiable environmental services of public trees and the significant contributions they make in a community.

Using a model called Urban Forest Effects (UFORE), developed over the past two decades by United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Forest Service research scientists, city, county, park, and urban forest managers can now accurately quantify the environmental service

benefits urban forests provide, understand and balance the costs of managing an urban forest, and become better prepared for threats to the urban forest such as disease, exotic pests, and severe weather emergencies.

The Council and Davey Resource Group used existing public tree inventories and the UFORE model to estimate the valuable environmental functions of public trees in five cities in Northern Kentucky: Bellevue, Covington, Florence, Fort Thomas, and Newport.

The following table presents a summary of the study’s findings for the combined street and park tree population in each city:

<b>Annual Benefit</b>	<b>Annual Value</b>
CO Removal	\$89
O <sub>3</sub> Removal	\$28,963
NO <sub>2</sub> Removal	\$6,061
Particulate Removal	\$7,692
SO <sub>2</sub> Removal	\$1,829
Carbon Storage	\$69,722
Compensatory Value	\$17,133,800
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$17,248,156</b>
<b>Total per Tree</b>	<b>\$1,453</b>

The Council wants to use the information gained from the

UFORE study to encourage cities and counties to support and improve local urban forest management programs. For instance, the ecosystem/environmental service results (e.g., pollution removal) can be used to help determine the value of the resource to help support urban forest management budgets and integrate urban forestry programs in larger regulatory efforts to improve environmental quality in communities.

In addition to the benefits, the susceptibility of the public urban forest to pest infestations such as Asian Longhorn Beetle (ALB), Emerald Ash Borer (EAB), and Gypsy Moth was assessed using UFORE and the tree inventories provided by the five cities.

Using the UFORE model, the benefits and threats to the urban forest can be quantified. With this information, the council hopes that urban forest managers, elected officials, and citizens can better understand and appreciate their urban forests, and, in turn, support better management of the resource to maximize future benefits and sustainability of public trees.

A complete copy of the report can be found on the Council’s website. Or, for more information, contact Jenny Gulick at 859-384-8258 or at [jgulick@davey.com](mailto:jgulick@davey.com).

## CARING FOR A LIVE CHRISTMAS TREE

By Dr. Deborah B. Hill, U.K., Department of Forestry

If you are going to choose a real Christmas tree as the center of your Christmas celebrations, it will require some special care to ensure a pleasant, and not messy, experience.

When selecting a balled and burlapped tree, check both the size of the root-ball and whether or not it is damp to the touch. Often balled and burlapped trees are displayed in old tires—the root-ball for any tree over 3 feet tall should completely fill the tire. Again, ask where the trees came from and how long ago they were dug—local sources are probably better for freshness and for compatible soil types. If the root-ball is dry, the tree is probably suffering from drought conditions. Also, bend a green needle between thumb and forefinger—if it snaps rather than bends, the tree may be too dry. Make sure the foliage is wrapped when you transport it, so that air movement across the needles does not cause further drying.

The most commonly grown Christmas tree species in Kentucky are white pine and Scots pine, followed by Douglas-fir, Colorado blue spruce, and Norway spruce. Scots pine has medium length needles and short, stubby branches and will hold all kinds of ornaments well. White pine has very soft, fragrant foliage and flexible branches, and will not support heavy ornaments well. Douglas-fir and the spruces are more like Scots pine but have very short needles relative to the pines. Fraser fir is the Cadillac of Christmas trees, with a wonderful, pungent odor, but Kentucky does

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**NORTHERN KENTUCKY URBAN &  
COMMUNITY FORESTRY COUNCIL**

c/o Boone County Extension Service  
P.O. Box 876  
Burlington, KY 41005

Phone: 859-572-2600

*Creating an awareness about the value of urban  
forestry in Northern Kentucky Communities.*

**We're on the web!**  
**[www.nkyurbanforestry.org](http://www.nkyurbanforestry.org)**

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not have appropriate conditions for its growth. Firs and spruces may be more expensive than pines because they take longer to grow to the same heights. For balled and burlapped trees, the best choices are probably white pine and the spruces for replanting in Kentucky and for greatest beauty in the home landscape.

For balled and burlapped trees, once you get the tree, dig a hole in your yard where the tree will be planted. The hole should be at least two times the width of the root-ball but the same depth. Cover the soil you have removed so it doesn't freeze up on you while the tree is in the house. Place the tree's root-ball in a tub or bucket big enough to hold it and store it out of wind and sun for at least two days before going into the house. Mist down the needles, and water the root-ball just enough to get it damp, not wet.

Place any real tree in a spot where it is away from a heat source—stoves, registers, fireplaces, radiators, etc. There is a tiny (less than one 1,000th of one percent) chance that a Christmas tree (real or artifi-

cial) may be flammable, but keeping it away from flame or heat sources reduces that possibility. Limit the hours that electric lights are lit on the tree—each bulb is a tiny hot spot on the needles.

Keep a living tree's roots damp while indoors. Live trees should be inside no more than one week.

When a living tree has been enjoyed in the house for a week, return it to a sheltered, but unheated, location as you did before it went into the house. With all the decorations removed, mist the needles down again and make sure the root-ball is still damp. After two or three days, plant the tree, remembering to remove all plastic twine, wire, and burlap from the root-ball. Slightly loosen the soil of the root-ball and use the protected, reserved soil from the hole to fill in around the tree. If temperatures allow, water the tree thoroughly after planting and put mulch (wood chips, sawdust) 2 or 3 inches deep around the tree (but not touching the bark of the tree). If there are warm spells during the winter, water the tree again, but otherwise it should

just begin growing new needles in the spring.

A real tree can make the whole Christmas tradition memorable, delighting sight, smell, and touch. With appropriate care, it will only enhance your holiday experience.

