

Bronze Leaf Award Winner:

City of Arlington, Forestry & Beautification Department

The City of Arlington Forestry and Beautification Department is nominated for the award of the Order of The Bronze Leaf Award. The City of Arlington Forestry and Beautification Department is nominated for the L.E.A.F. program. **Let's Enhance Arlington's Forest** is an urban forestry initiative designed to bring quality free trees to neighborhoods, businesses and public open spaces in Arlington. The idea of the program is designed around the principle of "reinvigorating neighborhoods".

Arlington's goals for this program are to educate citizens of the benefits of trees, increase the attractiveness and livability of the city, build community through civic and environmental responsibility, and improve air and water quality.

The L.E.A.F. program continues to grow in popularity each planting season! In 2008/2009 fall/spring rounds, the City of Arlington was able to supply over 1,500 trees, consisting of 10 and 30 gallon trees, to residential areas, local businesses, and public spaces. 188 homes in 15 different neighborhoods signed up to plant new trees in their yards, helping to reduce energy costs, water run-off, and heat islands. The L.E.A.F. program allows citizens to come together and work towards improved air quality and greater environmental responsibility.

The City of Arlington Forestry and Beautification Department is nominated for the award of the Order of The Bronze Leaf Award. The City of Arlington Forestry and Beautification Department is nominated for the completion of an Urban Forest Effects Model (UFORE).

Understanding an urban forest's structure, function and value can promote management decisions that will improve human health and environmental quality. An assessment of the vegetation structure, function, and value of the Arlington urban forest was conducted during 2009. Data collected from 233 field plots (out of total 234 plots) located throughout Arlington were analyzed using the Urban Forest Effects (UFORE) model developed by the U.S. Forest Service, Northern Research Station.

Key findings

- Number of trees: 2,965,000
- Tree cover: 22.4%
- Most common species: Cedar elm, Sugarberry, Post oak
- Percentage of trees less than 6" (15.2 cm) diameter: 61.5%

- Pollution removal: 515 metric tons/year (\$2.94 million/year)
- Carbon storage: 374,000 metric tons (\$8.54 million)
- Carbon sequestration: 20,000 metric tons/year (\$457 thousand/year)
- Building energy savings: \$2.80 million / year
- Avoided carbon emissions: \$135 thousand / year
- Structural values: \$2.75 billion