

## **Norm**

My cause is beautifying urban areas, and the reason it's so important is today many, many communities have become blighted with dead and dying trees because people can no longer afford to take care of them. I found there are grants available and if you can motivate and help people get started, they can turn that around and make the communities beautiful again. This has been proven to make a big difference in attitudes of the people. It shows the municipality cares about those people. Very important with the youth also because they're the ones that have to grow up there. So nice trees that can thrive there; if the trees can thrive there, they can to.

I was inspired to work in urban forestry by Myra Lloyd Dock. She served on the state forest reservation commission for 12 years, and she fell in love with the forests in Pennsylvania. She wanted to share that love of the forest with people who live in cities. She wanted to bring the forest to the people because the people in the cities didn't have a way to go out and enjoy the forest as she did. Her idea was to bring the forest to the people properly modified and tended in the forms of parks. This is what I'm doing today -- trying to build communities with wooded parks and streets so people can go out there and enjoy themselves.

The one step anyone can take to get involved in beautifying their communities is to get involved with local community through volunteering -- perhaps convince their municipal officials that they need a shade tree commission to provide good leadership, solid people that know what they are doing, and then volunteer. There's nothing difficult about planting trees and there are grants available to volunteer groups that could raise money for neighborhood associations and get the work done.

It's been my experience that a lot of people are not leaders; they are followers. They're very, very interested in doing something but they're waiting for someone to come along and take them by the hand and show them what to do. So if you're a leader, there are a lot of people out there waiting for you to ask them. If you're a follower, you can seek out those people and get a nucleus of people, and there's nothing difficult about planting trees. It's all out there waiting for you to do it.