



Citizen Pruner and Volunteer Update: October 2016

By: Calli Cloutier

With the turning of the seasons and the sudden drop in temperatures, 2016 is quickly coming to a close. As we move into the preholiday, holiday, and post-holiday season, there is no better time to look back on the past year and celebrate all the wonderful work done for the urban forests of Minnesota. When looking back at the 2015 Citizen Pruner year, it is amazing to see just how much work was accomplished from our hardworking and dedicated volunteers. Over the course of 2015 Citizen Pruners were able to prune 798 trees for their communities, substantial work that contributes to the growth, health, and care of our trees. Not only do the trees benefit, but the communities receiving all the volunteers' hard work, roughly 231.75 hours to be exact, benefit as well. In 2015, volunteers contributed \$5,754.35 in work!

Although all the numbers haven't come in from this year's Citizen Pruner volunteer work, it's safe to say that 2016 was another successful year in the urban forestry game. It's even more exciting to think about the additional work that has been done in our state with the addition of the 12 LCCMR grant communities. Thus far, the LCCMR communities have contributed 372 volunteer hours and have cared for over (whether pruning, planting, mulching, etc.) 1157 trees. With these communities initiating the Tree Steward Program, it will be exciting to see just how much work has been accomplished in 2016.

One prime example of how much difference volunteers can make in a community can be seen in Rochester. Last year with its 5 active volunteers, they were able to contribute 17.25 volunteer hours, prune 120 trees, remove 1327 suckers, and remove a total of 2680 branches. This season alone, since the start of the LCCMR grant in June, Rochester has completed 35.5 volunteer hours in both the LCCMR Tree Steward Program and Citizen Pruner Program. The specifics of how many trees were pruned and monitored are not yet available, but we are hoping to see some exciting numbers. This count of hours has only been for the last few months, so it's clear to see that the amount of work volunteers are doing has increased and an impact has been made.

Thanks to all the Citizen Pruner communities and all those who have and continue to volunteer! Your work has and continues to make an impact; we couldn't do it without you!