

FINAL REPORT
FOREST SERVICE GRANT NO. NA-99-0408

Period covered by this report: September 24, 1999 through December 31, 2001

NOTE: Please review the following information and revise/complete as necessary.

Issued to: Trees New York/ New York City Street Tree Consortium Inc.
Address: 51 Chambers Street, Suite 1412A, New York, NY 10007

Congressional District Number: 8

Project Name: Bike Rack "cum" Tree Guard: Protecting Our Street Trees

Contact Person/Principal Investigator:

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Date of Award: September 24, 1999

Grant Modifications: N/A

Date of Expiration: December 31, 2001

Funding: Federal Share: \$58,830 plus **Grantee Share:** \$69,300 = **Total Project:** \$125,130

FS Grant Manager: Philip Rodbell
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Please provide an abstract on your project and its results. This abstract will be posted on the NUCFAC internet site. (approximately 200 words or less).

TNY tackled a common streetscape clash between two good environmental practices: the planting/ maintenance of street trees and the use of bicycles for transportation. In collaboration with Cooper Union, an international student competition was held to develop a device that protected street trees while providing bike parking with a practical, cost effective, flexible design. Fifteen design finalists were selected, and two designs were selected as first and second place winners. Prototypes are presently being piloted on the streets of Manhattan. We are planning to expand the pilot project in a variety of streetscape scenarios. The project emphasizes that street trees are an extremely important component of a community's infrastructure.

Project Objectives:

The project objective is to protect street trees and to provide accessible bike parking with a practical, cost effective, flexible, and stylish design. The intent is to design and produce a prototype that can be used in a variety of streetscape scenarios across the nation.

Objectives met successfully:

- Seven judges were confirmed and participated, including the DOT Commissioner, Pres. of Times Square **BID**, Exec. Dir. American Forests, rep. from NYC **DPR**, and Cooper Union's steel machinist, among others.
- By the February 1st registration date, TNY received 125 registrations from over 80 schools worldwide. Students provided an amazing variety of designs that would protect trees while providing bicycle parking.
- The group was narrowed to 38 semifinalists, then to 15 finalists and, finally, to two winners. The winners were chosen on April 2nd. The first place winner was Manuel Saez of the University of Bridgeport School of Industrial Design, and the second place winner was James Smith of the Harvard Graduate School of Design. Both of the winning designs will be manufactured.
- An exhibition featuring 60 of the most innovative entries was held at the Cooper Union School of Engineering from May 14 to June 22, 2001. The opening reception for the exhibition was held on May 15. Awards were presented to the two winners at the reception. The exhibition attracted a great deal of attention; stories ran in the *New York Times*, *The New York Post*, *The New York Daily News*, *Metropolis Magazine*, and *Landscape Architecture Magazine*, among others.
- TNY solicited bids from several manufacturers to determine who will ultimately make the structures (at an affordable cost) and the manufacturer was selected, and is now producing prototypes.
- The first pilot sites were selected and the prototypes were installed.
- Monitoring is taking place and modifications have been made to the initial prototype designs.
- Marketing and expansion efforts are in progress.

Objectives not met:

N/A

List the major research or policy findings of your project?

N/A

However, the Project does encourage a change in policy treating street trees as a component of the infrastructure.

If not apparent in the above, or if your project did not involve research, how did the project increase the knowledge we have about urban forestry? How did (will) the public benefit?

Although the project did not involve research *per se*, it focused on public attention on the importance of trees within the community context, thereby affecting policy. By addressing the transportation and transportation alternatives constituency (as well as decision makers) the Project emphasizes that street trees are an extremely important component of community infrastructure. And, it clearly focuses on the need to protect street trees from harm (even when the harm stems from an environmentally positive activity and alternative mode of transportation). The Project (which is extremely visible) hammers home the fact that the public must realize the importance of community forestry through protective means. The Project has expanded public awareness, and has begun to instill in institutes of higher education and their students (the nation's future decision makers) as to an infrastructure component they must include.

What recommendations might you make for community foresters or others who might benefit from your project?

The environmental trend in city and town centers across the country is to plant trees and to encourage non-polluting modes of transportation. However, trees are often damaged by bicycle lock chains, etc. TNY recommends that community foresters and others be cognizant of a probable clash between bikes and street trees, and plan ahead to ameliorate the conflict.

Attach copies of reports, publications or videos. If your work has been published (journals, popular press, etc.), provide where they have been published or reported and how copies can be obtained.

The Project has received considerable press coverage, and continues to receive attention as it moves from the pilot stage into full scale production and installation. I have attached articles about the Project that have appeared in local, regional, and national publications. We have been informed by *Landscape Architecture Magazine* that another article about the Project will appear in the February 2002 issue, and by *Metropolis Magazine* that the devices will be included in their resources guide.

How were your results disseminated to the public?

The competition and the exhibition have and continue to receive press and public attention through a variety of media sources. There is a PR component that addresses the importance and vulnerability of street trees in order to make public and private sectors aware that there is a viable solution when dealing with the clash between two environmentally positive entities. TNY has produced a comprehensive, 4-color pamphlet in conjunction with the Project that raises awareness of the problem and details solutions. A mailing of the pamphlet to Business Improvement Districts (BIDs), universities, and other relevant recipients has begun. The PR campaign has a definite internet emphasis in addition to other media avenues. The progress of the Project is posted on the web sites www.treesny.com and www.designentrees.com. In addition, we are linking to many other sites and targeting municipalities. Several BIDs, property developers, and individuals have requested information about the Project and how they can purchase the bike rack/tree guards for their neighborhoods.

List the active partners (key individuals or organizations) involved in the project:

Cooper Union for the Advancement of the Science and Art
Advisory Committee of varying backgrounds (engineers, lawyer, DOT, Art Commission director, etc.)
NYC DPR
NYC DOT
Contractors Assn. of NY
East Manhattan Chamber of Commerce
James Smith, Harvard Graduate Design Center
Manuel Saez, Univ. of Bridgeport Industrial Design
American Pipe Bending and Fabrication Co., Inc.

Photo or Illustration: If possible, please provide a photo or illustration for our use that summarizes or represents the project. Indicate how this illustration should be credited.



Trees New York



Manuel Saez

If a no-cost time extension was granted for this project, why was it needed?

N/A

How would you evaluate the grant process? What changes, if any, would you recommend?

I am not sure whether you mean the application process or evaluation during the implementation of the grant. However, if you mean during the implementation, a less passive review process might be in order with a more direct link to the US FS and Congress.

Comments considered of importance but not covered above:

The competition of the original proposal was a small competition between students in one course. It expanded to become an international competition in which students from across the country and beyond participated. Consequently the scope broadened considerably hand in hand with the exposure to an important segment of our population: students who are tomorrow's problem solvers; leaders; designers; and decision makers.

Thanks to the publicity the Project received from the aforementioned publications, TNY has a long list of people throughout the city and across the country who want to purchase the devices as soon as they're available. Sales and distribution will begin shortly.

This report was prepared by:

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Date: January 3, 2002