

FINAL REPORT

FOREST SERVICE GRANT NO. 03-DG-11244225-421

Period covered by this report: September 1, 2003 through June 30, 2006

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

Issued to: Minnesota DNR and the Tree Trust

Address: MN DNR, 500 Lafayette Road, St. Paul, MN 55155

Congressional District Number: 4

Project Name: Southeast Asian Initiative for Urban and Community Forestry

Contact Person/Principal Investigator:

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Date of Award: September 1, 2003

Grant Modification: Mod.1: Time extension from September 30, 2005 to September 30, 2006

Date of Expiration: September 30, 2006

Funding: Federal Share: \$120,366 plus **Grantee Share:** \$174,174 = **Total Project:** \$294,540

FS Grant Manager: Phil Rodbell

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Phone Number: (610) 557-4133 **Fax Number:** 557-4136 **E-mail:** prodbell@fs.fed.us

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).

Primary purpose of this project is to develop and implement initiatives designed to introduce the concept of community forestry to an important underserved population group in Minnesota, the Southeast Asian immigrant community, and to increase their understanding and participation in urban forestry activities. Working with community leaders, the project used innovative and culturally appropriate approaches that focused on community outreach, and cultural and language barriers removal. In outreach, the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources relied on its Southeast Asian Program unit with its 10-years track record of working with the state's Cambodian, Hmong, Laotian and Vietnamese communities, and its 100 percent ethnic staff to connect and communicate with the target population. The program partnered with Tree Trust to recruit and work with leaders of each of the four ethnic groups to create new avenues that permit and facilitate the immigrants' learning, contribution of ideas and active participation in educational and tree maintenance and planting projects in their own neighborhoods in order to improve their lives and their communities.

Project objectives:

1. Outreach to Asian organizations and needs assessment
2. Develop education and activity plans
3. Implement education and activity plans
4. Document and dissemination of information

Objectives met successfully:

Objective I:

Outreach:

1. Contacts and connections were made to all active formal and informal Southeast Asian community organizations in the state. A total of over 130 groups. Contacts List attached
2. Contacts were also extended to the Chinese community.
3. Five groups, four Southeast Asian and one Chinese formally joined the project as partners. Later in the second year, five more groups, all Southeast Asian, also joined as partners.

Needs Assessment:

Survey form was developed and completed at end of 2003. It was administered at beginning of February 2004 and through the year after each educational session. Total completed: 50

Objective 2:

1. First-year educational and activity plan consisting of:
 - (1) Orientation meeting with leaders of five Southeast Asian organizations to launch the project
 - (2) A 5-page package of informational and educational offerings that include:
 - > 45-50 minutes classroom bilingual presentations on tree related topics
 - > Day field trips to nurseries, tree and landscape arboretums, nature center tours, city parks
 - > Participation in tree planting and maintenance projects
 - (3) A Kick-off event organized by the five original community partners attended by over 250 persons including MN Department of Natural Resources Commissioner, Tree Trust President and leaders of the SE Asian community.
 - (4) A detailed schedule of all activities chosen by the organizations with dates, time, location, size group and ages.
2. Second-year educational and activity plan:
 - (1) A second general information/orientation meeting with leaders of five new and existing Southeast Asian partners to update them on project's progress and next phase.
 - (2) A second-year workplan for Summer-Fall 2005 was completed and included the following:
 - > Educational classroom sessions for the three new organizations (Cambodian, Hmong & Laotian)
 - > Two tree planting and maintenance projects: one large one at the Cambodian Temple in Hampton (with design assistance by Design Center for American Urban Landscape of University of MN), and the other at the Vietnamese Church in St. Paul.
 - > An educational Retreat for organization senior program staff at St. John University. Main purpose: provide them with knowledge, skills and resources to work with their clients.

Objective 3:

1. Implementation of first-year educational and activity plan:

A total of 60 informational and educational activities were successfully completed during the project's first year (2004). Estimated total participation: 2,500 - 2,800 adults and youths

2. Implementation of second-year educational and activity plan:

1. Tree planting: A total of four tree planting and maintenance projects were undertaken and successfully completed.

> Locations: Cambodian Buddhist Temple in Hampton; Vietnamese Catholic Church in Saint Paul; Wilder Public Housing Complex in Saint Paul; Lao Vat Buddhist Temple in Monticello

> Total numbers of trees planted: 300

> Total numbers of participants: 350

3. Homeowners' Tree planting: a group of Hmong and Vietnamese took the initiative to enlist some 50 homeowners from its respective community to learn the process of planting trees on their property. DNR and Tree Trust provided training, material resources (equipment and trees), and guidance for this mini project. A total of 40 families successfully planted trees in their yards, an average of two trees per home.

4. Outdoor and Classroom Training Retreat at St. John University for youth: a three-days and two-nights session took place on the college campus that offers large forested areas and an extensive arboretum. Session included:

> Classroom raining on urban and forestry topics

> Educational and recreational activities in forest areas and arboretum

> A half-day hands-on tree planting and maintenance at the Lao Vat Buddhist Temple where a total of 50 trees were planted.

> Total number of youth who participated: 75 with 7 adults to supervise them.

Objective 4:

Document and Dissemination of information

Notes, reports and documentation of contacts, meetings, gatherings and activities were kept and recorded during the entire project life.

See Documents submitted with this Report

Objective not met: None

List the major research or policy findings of your project?

None

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?

1. An important section of Minnesota's population, the Asians, the majority of whom are Southeast Asian immigrants from Cambodia, Laos and Vietnam, totaling an estimated 140,000, and Chinese Americans, will learn and increase their knowledge about urban forestry as a discipline and practice that will result in the viability and improvement of their community and daily lives.
2. Gained knowledge and adoption of natural resources ethics within the Asian community through this project will benefit the larger community and the public in general.

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

None

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.

In Attached Package — sent separately

How were your results disseminated to the public?

Through this Final Report and a Guidebook (currently in its final stage of production — Final product will be available in February 2007. It will be mailed out and also posted on the Internet by Spring 2007.

What are the logical next steps or future direction of your project/research?

Efforts are being made to seek additional funds to continue the positive results achieved by this initiative in order to keep the momentum and sustain the Southeast Asian interest for urban forestry.

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

Project authors:

1. MN Department of Natural Resources
Southeast Asian Outreach Program:
 - . Josee Cung, Program Manager
 - . Tong Vang, Community Planner/ Liaison
 - . Kao Thao, Park Naturalist, Youth LiaisonForestry Division:
 - . Don Mueller, Forester

2. Tree Trust:
 - . Janette Monear, Outreach Director
 - . Gail Nozal, Program Director

Project Community Partners:

1. Organization of Chinese Americans of Minnesota: Mr. Joseph Hui (952) 831-7467
2. Lao family Community Center: Mr. Ying Vang (651) 221-0069
3. The Association for the Advancement of Hmong Women: Ms. Ly Vang (612) 724-3066
4. Lao Parents and Teachers Association of MN: Mr. Khao Insixiengmay (612) 302-9590
5. Vietnamese Social Services of MN: Mr. Yen Pham (651) 644-1317
6. St. Aldabert >s Vietnamese Catholic Community: Father Minh Vu (651) 228-2959
7. Cambodian Buddhist Society: Mr. Yanat Chhith (651) 463-1301
8. Lao Assistance Center of MN: Mr. Sunny Chanthanouvong (612) 374-4967
9. United Cambodian Association of MN: Ms. Lar Munstock (651) 255-0720
10. Lao Buddhist Association of MN: Mr. Boulieng Phommasouvanh(651)592- 4544

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

See Attached Package — sent separately

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

Respect for Southeast Asian attitudes regarding time and deadlines.

Respect for partners' other higher priorities that more than often are not related to urban forestry and/or natural resources issues.

All of the educational activities could be scheduled only during Spring-Summer periods due to Minnesota temperatures and weather.

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

No comments

Comments considered of importance but not covered above:

None

This report was prepared by:

Name: Josee Cung

Title: Program Manager

Phone Number: (651) 297-4745

Date: January 31, 2007

List of Materials Submitted with this Report:

1. DNR Southeast Asian & Minority Outreach Program's Participants / Contacts (May2003)
2. Asian Initiative for Urban & Community Forestry — Summary Project Information (Summer 2003)
3. Article about the Project in local paper (August 2003)
4. Kick-Off Event Invitation Card (November 2003)
5. Survey Form
6. Educational and field trip Offerings: (1) classroom session, (2) field trip, (3) community service project
7. Detailed Schedule of Activities during Summer 2004
8. Tree Planting Instructions (by Tree Trust)
9. Copy of Final Concept Site Plan for Cambodian Buddhist Temple for tree planting project (by Design Center — October 2004)
10. Article about the Asian Initiative in an ethnic publication (New Year Publication — January 2005).
11. Diskette of pictures taken at Kick-Off Event