



Young Adult Conservation Corps 2009 Year-End Report

During 2009 Tree Trust's Young Adult Conservation Corps program served 65 low-income young adults.

31% of our 2009 participants had a physical, emotional or behavioral disability; 95% were basic skills deficient; 29% had previous juvenile offenses and 20% were teen parents.

While 18 participants continued into 2010, 45 participants exited the program in 2009.

Our 2009 participants resided in the city of Minneapolis or in suburban Hennepin County, and reported the following demographics:



Male:	92%	African-American:	83%
Female:	8%	Hispanic/Latino:	6%
Ages 16-17:	22%	Native American:	5%
Ages 18-21:	72%	Caucasian:	6%
Ages 22-24:	6%		

Participants of our Young Adult Conservation Corps started the program in "entry level." In this first three-month stage, participants worked in small teams of four or five people to complete landscape construction projects and property maintenance.

In addition to their work on crews, participants spent four hours per week in classroom training facilitated by our Crew Leaders, Case Manager, Youth Programs Coordinator and other Tree Trust staff. Topics included:

- First Aid and OSHA-10 certification
- Tool safety and operation
- Employment readiness (resumes, workplace norms, interviewing techniques) using MN Careers curriculum created by the Minnesota Department of Employment and Economic Development
- Money management using lessons from the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation's Money Smart program

Our 2009 Young Adult Conservation Corps participants also worked with the program's Case Manager to develop and monitor progress on Individual Service Strategies (ISSs) that identified goals, problem-solved barriers to goal completion, outlined action steps and identified resources available to assist with goal achievement.

After completing the first three months of the program, several participants applied and were invited to participate in the "advanced level." This stage of the program, which spans an additional three months, also includes working in teams in local parks and recreation areas. However, participants in the advanced crews completed more technical landscape construction projects and property maintenance.

Projects completed by entry level and advanced participants in 2009 included mowing and shoveling snow for 112 low-income elderly and disabled homeowners at no charge to the residents, planting 197 trees and 300 shrubs as well as completing other improvement projects in local parks and recreation areas, and performing ongoing maintenance along the Hennepin County Regional Railroad Authority trail system.

New to the program in 2009 was the offer for one successful graduate of our Young Adult Conservation Corps program to become an intern. His internship, which began in 2009, will span the course of three months. He will be supervised by a program Site Supervisor and assist with training entry-level program participants. Successful completion of his internship will make this young man eligible to apply for open positions within Tree Trust's staff.

We are proud to report the following outcomes achieved in 2009:



- *100% of participants who completed pre- and post-tests improved basic math and reading skills two months after entering the program.*
- *100% of participants who exited the program during 2009 reported that their opportunities for future employment were expanded through working with Tree Trust.*
- *100% of participants who exited the program during 2009 reported that Tree Trust helped them to reach their employment goals.*