

**Six acres of Rhode Island forests are lost every day! For every tree planted in our cities, four are removed!**

When trees are destroyed, the quality of our life suffers. Trees give us oxygen, they clean our air, they conserve soil and water, they reduce energy consumption, they shelter us from wind and sun, they provide wildlife habitat and they refresh us with their color and beauty.

The Tree Steward Program teaches Rhode Islanders about trees. An informed public can reverse the loss of trees, and can create a green, healthy, and pleasant place to live and work.

*"It is the duty of an enlightened community to plant trees and to so care for them that posterity shall not suffer."*  
--Joseph Decaisne (1807-1882)  
Belgian botanist, director of  
Jardins des Plantes, Paris

## Our Vision for Rhode Island.

Vibrant cities and towns with tree lined avenues and highways.

Green and tranquil parks.  
Shaded playgrounds and parking lots.

Buildings graced with trees.  
Green and quiet neighborhoods.

Lush expanses of forests.

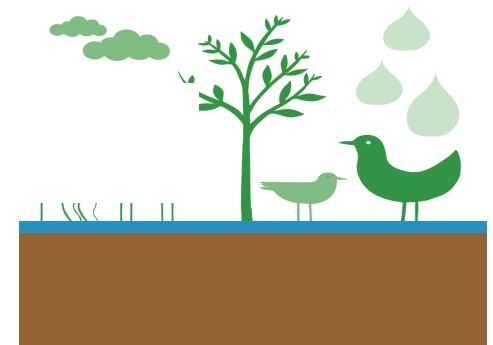
If this is your hope for the future, then you share the vision of the Rhode Island Tree Council, and you can help make that vision come true.

The Rhode Island Tree Council (RITree) is Rhode Island's comprehensive tree advocacy group. Our mission is to create healthy urban and community forests. RITree is a 501(c) 3 non-profit organization.



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## Tree Steward Education Program



Learning About  
Trees -Soil-Water

# Rhode Island Tree Steward Education Program

## *Education*

The Tree Steward Education Course is held twice a year, spring and fall, each time in a different community. Classes meet eight times over six weeks: one night a week from 6:30-9:00 pm, and two Saturday morning outdoor workshops. Missed classes can be made up in future sessions.

### Topics

- Tree identification
- Tree biology
- Benefits of trees
- Tree planting and pruning
- Tree care and maintenance
- Pests and diseases
- Inventory techniques
- Planning for community trees

Instructors include tree care experts, university professors, foresters, and landscape architects. They provide a combination of classroom learning and hands-on experience. Our classes are open to both amateurs and professionals. Ages range from young adults to senior citizens.

## *Community*

To complete the program, Stewards are asked to volunteer 30 hours for the benefit of community trees. This provides opportunities to apply new knowledge and use new skills.

### Examples of volunteer opportunities:

- Organize a planting project.
- Prune and mulch trees in neighborhood parks.
- Mentor Students in urban ecology
- Participate in a tree inventory.
- Locate and document notable trees.
- Develop a community tree farm.
- Preserve local woodlands.
- Participate in any of RITree's ongoing projects such as: cable TV program, newsletter, Arbor Day poster contest, annual conference, and office help.

## *Stewardship*

*“A steward is one who is entrusted with the protection and management of something of value, a guardian.”*

Since 1995, the Tree Steward Program has been teaching Rhode Islanders about the life, the needs, and the importance of trees. They learn how to become guardians and advocates for the welfare of trees in their communities.

Rhode Island Tree Stewards are planting and pruning trees, sharing their knowledge and skills, and working in their communities to build sustainable urban and rural forests for future generations.

The Rhode Island Tree Council provides continuing education through Tree Steward II programs and opportunities for Tree Stewards to meet and work together.

