

Society of Municipal Arborists

Municipal Arborist Exchange Program 2004

What Is the Exchange Program?

SMA is sponsoring an exchange program for municipal arborists located around the world. SMA and contributing sponsors will fund airfare and basic expenses for professional exchanges within the next year, which will take place in spring or summer of 2004. An “exchange” means reciprocal visits between two municipal arborists. Each participant will be selected and paired with another through an application process, and will spend at least one week visiting and working with the other host city’s forestry department.

Why Sponsor an Exchange Program?

The purpose is to create a way for municipal arborists to exchange urban forestry expertise, management ideas and technology through “in-person” contact and on-site experience. What better way to find out how other forestry practitioners operate than to spend time with each other? We have much to learn from other programs in our own countries and around the world, and we each have much to offer. Not only will the program facilitate the transfer of knowledge, it will help foster an international community of municipal arborists.

Who Can Apply?

A candidate must be (or become) a member of SMA. A candidate must be employed within the urban forestry profession, preferably as a municipal arborist, for at least two years. Knowledge of a second language is helpful but not essential, although the application must be submitted in English. A chosen participant (or the host municipality) must be able to provide lodging for the visiting participant (private homes are encouraged).

How Will Selections Be Made?

Exchange pairings will be made by our selection committee on a “best match” basis. The number of participants will depend on available funding. Selected participants will most likely be from cities of similar size and climate, and speak a shared language. Ideally, each forestry program will have or do something that the other can learn from – a unique or exemplary program, site condition, problem, etc. The selection committee will consider if an applicant wishes to have an exchange with someone from a preferred city, country, or region. Arborists from communities participating in the Sister City International Program that propose an exchange with a sister city are especially encouraged to apply.

What Is Required From Selected Participants?

Participants will spend at least one full work week with the host city’s forestry department or arborist. Each participant will be required to write an article for the SMA journal “City Trees” about what he or she learned and experienced for the interest of the SMA membership.

What Is the Deadline?

All applications must be received by October 3, 2003. Awardees will be notified by December 1, 2003. The timeframe for the exchanges will be determined by the participants with the assistance of the SMA program coordinators.

How Do I Apply?

Applications can be printed from the SMA website (www.urban-forestry.com) and mailed to:

Society of Municipal Arborists
c/o Douglas Still
City of New York/Parks & Recreation
Olmsted Center – Rm. 47
Flushing, NY 11368 USA

Or fax to 718-760-6640

Applications (or any questions) can be sent by email to Douglas.Still@parks.nyc.gov. Application answers must be submitted as an attachment in Microsoft Word format. Answers must be clearly numbered, with none omitted, and all application instructions followed.

Society of Municipal Arborists

Municipal Arborist Exchange Program Application – 2004

Application Deadline: October 3, 2003

Mail application to: Society of Municipal Arborists
c/o Douglas Still
City of New York/Parks & Recreation
Olmsted Center – Rm. 47
Flushing, NY 11368
USA

To join SMA, send \$60 (US Dollars) made payable to:
Society of Municipal Arborists
P.O.Box 641
Watkinsville, GA 30677
USA

or fax to: 718-760-6640

Go to www.urban-forestry.com for instructions on sending this application via email.

Contact Information:

(Please print clearly)

Name: _____
Professional
Title: _____
Work
Address: _____

Email: _____
Phone: _____
Fax: _____

Country: _____

Other Personal Information:

(Please print clearly)

1) What languages do you speak? _____

2) Are you a member of SMA? _____ (You must join SMA for this application to be considered.)

3) How long have you been employed in your current position? _____

4) Briefly describe other urban forestry experience you've had: _____

5) Please provide your educational background or training: _____

6) Are you able to provide lodging for one week to a visiting municipal arborist? _____

Please describe (private homes are encouraged): _____

7) Is there a city or a region of the world that would be your first choice to visit for this exchange? (Be as specific or as general as you like.) _____

Second choice: _____

8) If accepted, are you willing to be assigned an exchange anywhere (with your final approval), at the discretion of the selection committee? _____

Program Information:

(Please print clearly)

- 9) What is the human population of your city or town? _____
- 10) Does your city have a "sister city"? _____ Is your sister city's arborist applying? _____
- 11) How many full-time employees work for your city forestry program? _____ Seasonal? _____
- 12) What is your annual urban forestry budget? _____
- 13) Do you use private contractors to perform any work? _____
- 14) Do you have a written tree management plan? _____
- 15) Do you have a tree ordinance? _____
- 16) Do you have a citizen tree committee or tree board? _____
- 17) Does your program utilize volunteers? _____ If yes, please describe: _____

- 18) Have you conducted a street tree inventory? _____ If yes, is it maintained on a computer database? _____
- 19) What is your approximate tree population? _____
- 20) What are your ten most common street or park trees? (Use scientific names) _____

- 21) Approximately how many trees do you plant annually? _____
- 22) Do you prune your trees? _____ Have you instituted a regular pruning cycle, and if so, how long is the cycle? _____
- 23) Briefly describe any serious pest or disease problems your trees may have: _____

Further Information: Please attach your answers for each of the following questions on a type-written sheet, double-spaced, one page each or less.

- 24) What are the unique physical features of your urban forest or city environment? (ex. parks or park system, greenbelt, river or waterfront, historic areas, industrial, etc.)
- 25) Describe how your urban forestry program is unique. What efforts are you most proud of? What are your biggest challenges? What would you most like to share with other municipal arborists?
- 26) Describe your program's greatest needs. What would you like to learn from other municipal arborists? How could this exchange program benefit you or your city?