

Forestry Education

Indicator: Public Involvement in DNR Forestry Education Programs

Why is this indicator important?

Citizen involvement is a key to the success of healthy forests—from managing privately owned lands, providing input on public land management, battling emerald ash borer, enjoying forest recreation, to using tree products on a daily basis. DNR forestry education helps create citizens who are knowledgeable about natural resource management and good stewards of the land.

What is DNR doing?

DNR's forestry education programs target preschoolers through high schoolers and include many nonformal learning opportunities such as Arbor Month and the Big Tree Registry programs.

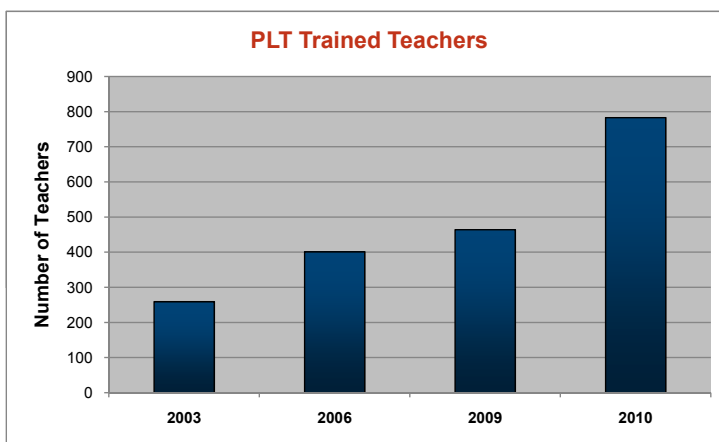
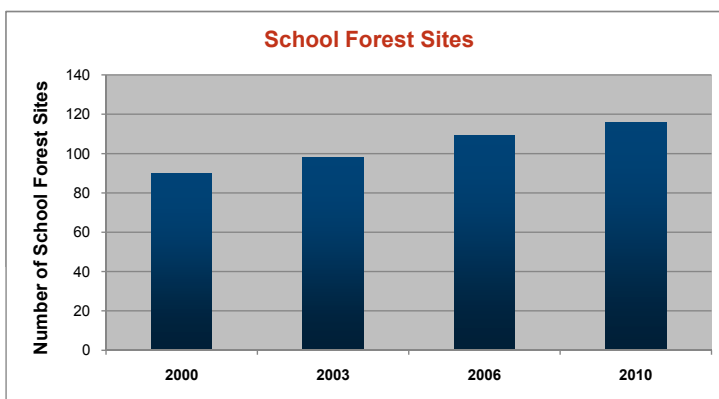
DNR provides forest management advice, curriculum support, and forestry information to 115 School Forests, where students use more than 7,500 acres as outdoor classrooms to learn about the natural world. Long-term relationships established with each site allows the School Forest Program to reach 1,500 schoolteachers and 25,000 pre-K-12 students with in-depth natural resource information. Focused attention is given to expanding sites in urban areas and helping teachers teach outdoors.

Since 1978, DNR's Project Learning Tree (PLT) has provided forestry and natural resource information to educators. Each year, mostly volunteer-led PLT workshops help more than 400 educators share forestry information with 16,000 students. PLT audiences include educators, students, scout leaders, nature center staff, and natural resource professionals. DNR PLT staff created a Minnesota PLT early childhood supplement in 2006 and led the creation of a national, award-winning PLT early childhood activity guide that was released in 2010. These guides have attracted about one-third of the teachers trained since 2006 and are responsible for one-half of the educators trained in 2010.

Target: Maintain involvement in DNR forestry education initiatives to ensure a knowledgeable public. The School Forest Program will increase participating schools and support its existing 115 sites and 7,500 acres of land. Minnesota PLT will train at least 400 educators each year, with emphasis on early childhood workshops.



School Forest sites are used as outdoor classrooms where students—future stewards of Minnesota's natural resources—can explore and learn about the natural world.



Learn more about:

- School Forest: www.mndnr.gov/schoolforests
- Project Learning Tree: www.mndnr.gov/plt
- Other DNR forestry education programs: www.mndnr.gov/forestry/education/index.html