

**Timeline: Urban and Community Forestry in America  
(Appendix II)**

from <http://www.lpb.org/programs/forest.html>

- 1634** Boston Common is created as a place for Bostonians to graze their livestock.
- 1840s** Vermont Congressman George Perkins Marsh warns of the destructive impact of human activity on the land, and advocates a conservationist approach to forest management.
- 1849** The U.S. Department of the Interior is established.
- 1854** Henry David Thoreau's "Walden, or Life in the Woods" is published.
- 1858** Frederick Law Olmsted designs New York City's Central Park.
- 1864** George Perkins Marsh publishes "Man and Nature."  
Congress passes a bill granting Yosemite Valley to the State of California as a public park.
- 1865** Frederick Law Olmsted develops Prospect Park in Brooklyn.
- 1866** German biologist Ernst Haeckel coins the word "ecology."
- 1872** Congress establishes Yellowstone National Park.  
Nebraska observes "Tree-Planting Day" on April 10. By 1907, Arbor Day is celebrated nationwide.
- 1875** Congress bans the unauthorized cutting or injury of trees on government property.
- 1878** Frederick Law Olmsted begins work on Boston's "Emerald Necklace," a series of public parks around the city. The Boston Public Garden is the first public botanical garden in the country.
- 1879** Congress establishes the U.S. Geological Survey as a bureau of the Department of the Interior.
- 1885** The state of New York establishes the Adirondack Forest Preserve and the Niagara Falls Reservation.
- 1890** Congress establishes three national parks in California (Sequoia, Yosemite and General Grant National Parks) in less than a week.

**1891**

Congress passes the Forest Reserve Act, creating the legislative foundation for what will become the National Forest system.

**1893**

President Benjamin Harrison sets aside 13 million acres of forest reserves.

**1892**

The Sierra Club is founded on June 4, with John Muir as the organization's first president.

**1896**

The Massachusetts Audubon Society is founded. By the end of the following year there are Audubon Societies in ten states and the District of Columbia.

**1905**

Control of the national forest system is transferred to the U.S. Department of Agriculture Forest Service.

The National Association of Audubon Societies for the Protection of Wild Birds and Animals is founded in New York, officially uniting the numerous state groups that have sprung up since 1896, and establishing a strong national voice for conservation. The organization's name was changed to the National Audubon Society in 1940.

**1905-1907**

President Theodore Roosevelt sets aside more than 180 million acres of land for wildlife refuges and national parks.

**1907**

Organized opposition to U.S. conservation policy arises. At the Denver Public Lands Convention, Western ranching and mining interests call for cession of public lands to the states and restriction of national forests.

**1916**

The National Park Service is founded as a division of the U.S. Department of the Interior. Stephen T. Mather is its first director.

**1917**

Dutch Elm Disease is first detected in Holland.

**1919**

The National Parks Association (renamed the National Parks and Conservation Association in 1970) is founded.

**1930**

Dutch Elm Disease is first spotted in Cleveland.

**late 1940s**

After World War II, Americans flock to the suburbs, accelerating deforestation around cities.

**1950s and 60s**

Dutch elm disease devastates America's urban forests. Thousands of tree-lined streets are completely clear-cut, and the population of American Elm trees is virtually wiped out.

**1970**

The first Earth Day is celebrated on April 22.

**1980s**

The Reagan administration cuts funds for urban forestry and other ecology programs.

**1990**

Congress passes the Urban and Community Forestry Assistance Act, which expands funds for urban forestry twenty-fold, and establishes a network of federal and state organizations dedicated to urban and community forestry.

**1993**

The Alliance for Community Trees is formed, uniting the dozens of local urban forestry groups that have sprung up across the country.

**1996**

The Asian long-horned beetle is detected in Brooklyn in August, and in Amityville one month later. More than 500 trees are removed in six months in an effort to slow one of the biggest threats to America's urban forests since Dutch Elm Disease.