Community Capacity Research
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For the fifth year, the CEP team has conducted community capacity and sustainable volunteerism surveys. The sustainable volunteer program surveys examine the demographics, inspirations for volunteering and continued engagement of volunteers over a period of time, beginning with their first involvement with a CEP project in their respective community. Pre- and Post- surveys of volunteers entering and completing our training programs and the completion of tree surveys or inventories in their communities help describe the demographics of “typical” volunteers, their attitudes and involvement before and then after the training and project completion. Subsequent surveys (1-3 years after the CEP project) reveal their changing attitudes about trees and their community’s urban forest program and their commitment to community volunteerism.

Communities that have received assistance from the CEP team are surveyed before and after the project involvement for their attitudes toward volunteerism, whether new personnel have been hired or internships established, whether they have developed urban forest management plans and whether they continue to use their community gravel beds. These surveys are compared to “paired communities,” that is, communities that have not received any technical assistance from the CEP team.

This study is projected to produce its first summary and analysis in 2015.