

NISC / ISAC Meeting – [Nov. 2014]

ACTION OR INFORMATION ITEM

SPONSORING NISC/ISAC MEMBER: Bill Toomey

PRESENTER'S NAME/AFFILIATION: The Nature Conservancy

TOPIC: Healthy Trees, Healthy Cities LEAF Alumni Tree Health Tracking Summer Internship Program Summary

1. **DESCRIPTION OF AGENDA ITEM:** Short update on the Healthy Trees, Healthy Cities Urban Youth Engagement program (LEAF) Tree Health Tracking program in Brooklyn this summer.
2. **WHY IS THIS ITEM IMPORTANT TO NISC / ISAC?** Non-native forest insects and diseases are a major threat to trees and forests in North America and the work of the Continental Dialogue and The Nature Conservancy's Forest Health Protection and Healthy Trees Healthy Cities program is designed to address the goals and objectives of the National Invasive Species Management Plan focusing on prevention, early detection, slowing the spread and raising awareness to successfully address this important issue. This project trained urban youth and early pest detection (Asian Long Horned Beetle and Emerald Ash Borer) and conducted targeted tree health monitoring in collaboration with the USFS, NYC Parks Dept, Prospect Park Conservancy, Davey Expert Tree Company and NISC. The methods and protocols developed are being evaluated by USFS National Forest Health Staff for additional outreach and training of citizens and youth as part of the Healthy Trees, Healthy Cities expansion to other US cities.
3. **HOW DOES THIS ITEM RELATE TO THE 2008 – 2012 NATIONAL INVASIVE SPECIES MANAGEMENT PLAN?** Developing tools and training urban youth and community members in early detection methods and protocol directly addresses many of the objectives in the Early Detection and Rapid Response sections of the National Invasive Species Management Plan.
4. **PREVIOUS ACTIONS TAKEN BY NISC / ISAC ON THIS ITEM:** Program was referenced to in a presentation on Healthy Trees, Healthy Cities program at the last ISAC meeting.
5. **ACTION REQUESTED OF NISC / ISAC:** For information and discussion. This project represents a possible model approach for conducting EDRR in urban area, especially under-served areas.
6. **ALTERNATIVES:** Presentation would be information but could lead to specific actions and collaborations with ISAC or its partner organizations.
7. **ATTACHMENTS:** Summary Report