

1998 USDA URBAN FORESTRY

Delaware

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The Urban and Community Forestry Program assists cities and towns with proper planning, management, and maintenance of trees, forests, and other natural resources. The protection of the state's tree resources is essential as Delaware's communities expand and grow.

Program Components

Education
Technical Assistance
Tree Inventories
Planning Policies
Tree City USA

Highlights

Urban forestry legislation was passed which recognized the Delaware Department of Agriculture (DDA) as the state organization responsible for urban forestry assistance. In addition, it formally established the Delaware Community Forestry Council and developed a process for communities to create **comprehensive urban forestry plans**.

The Urban and Community Forestry Program cosponsored the regional "**Storms Over the Urban Forest**" Conference with Maryland, Virginia, and the USDA Forest Service. The two-day conference addressed the planning and management of community

tree resources to mitigate the effects of natural disasters. Numerous private tree care businesses, non-profit organizations, school administrators, state agency staff, and city officials attended the sessions.

The **City of Dover implemented its storm alert plan** after a severe thunderstorm extensively damaged the city. The local television station broadcasted a segment with the Urban Forest Coordinator about the storm damage and the importance of mature tree care. Urban and Community Forestry folders with storm damage information were sent to homeowners throughout the city.

A partnership between the DDA Forest Service, American Forests, and the City of Dover Planning Department used the CITYGreen GIS computer program to maximize the effectiveness of tree planting in a new residential development, The Village of Cannon Mills. The Planning Department evaluated the proposed planting plan and then **determined the energy conservation, storm water management, and air quality benefits from improved species selection and landscape design**.

The **Wilmington Department of Parks and Recreation** partnered with numerous schools and community centers, including the Latin American Community Center and several African-American community centers, to plant trees and promote public education as part of **Arbor Day** celebrations. The diverse student population in Wilmington assisted in the tree planting and will continue the maintenance of these trees as part of their environmental science curriculum.

A representative from Yves Rocher, an international cosmetic company, worked with the Urban Forest Coordinator to develop a

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joint **environmental education program**. The company had already sponsored an existing program “An Arboretum in Every School” that promotes outdoor environmental education centers for elementary schools.

The Kent County Parks and Recreation Department, with the assistance of the DDA Forest Service and Poly Tech High School students, is **conducting an inventory and mapping the natural resources on county lands**. The results will be used to develop a planning policy for the management of public open spaces within the county’s land use plan.

The **Village of Arden**, on the National Register of Historic Places, was designed in the Garden City Concept with 45% communal

lands devoted to open space and greenbelts. The village is **developing a management plan for its open spaces**. The completed planning phases included an assessment of existing conditions, community workshops, and a conceptual design for the open spaces. The final phase of the plan will identify planting specifications, prioritize sites for implementation projects, and develop cost estimates.

A **database** is being developed, with the assistance of the Urban Forestry Coordinator at the Center for Urban Forestry at the Morris Arboretum, to monitor the accomplishment of grant projects and identify the needs of communities for urban forestry management.



Cleaning up storm damage

Federal Program Support		<i>Dollars in thousands</i>		
The State Program	<u>FY 1995</u>	<u>FY 1996</u>	<u>FY 1997</u>	<u>FY 1998</u>
	163.7	174.7	170.5	294.8