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**New Jersey's 2006 Accomplishment Report**

**Introduction**

The New Jersey Community Forestry Program is a unique partnership between government, business, and volunteers caring for trees where people live, work and play. Under the authority provided by the state legislature within the Community Forestry Assistance Act (P.L. 1996, Chapter 135), the program encourages, promotes and assists cities and towns in the establishment, retention and enhancement of trees and forest resources. The Community Forestry program is dedicated to making communities more livable by providing grants, technical assistance, training, and volunteer opportunities. The program continues to seek leading edge opportunities and innovative initiatives to build a sustainable statewide effort to manage local publicly owned trees and forest. Through the use of federal Urban and Community Forestry funding, the goal of having a statewide community forestry initiative is ensuing.

**Trees Grow in Bayonne – Reaching Out to Cities in Need**

The New Jersey Community Forestry continues to emphasize inner city activities and linking both low tree cover and communities that have not participated in the state's Community Forestry program. The program continues to identify several communities for a proactive approach through a partnership with the New Jersey Tree Foundation and the New Jersey Community Forestry Council. Funds were provided for each of the cities to develop a tree management plan and accomplish a local tree planting program. Several communities that were undeserved now have become developing communities and are working toward sustainability. Some of the cities participating for 2006 include: Camden City a population of 88,000 and a tree cover of 9%, Atlantic City a population of 41,000 and a tree cover of 13%, Bayonne City a population of 62,000 and a tree cover of 15% and Irvington City a population of 61,000 and a tree cover of 8%.

**Celebrating as a State – Cities Gather for Arbor Day**

The State Arbor Day Event highlighted the management and care and planting of trees within a 1.5 acre outdoor school wood lot in Paramus Bergen County). With the help of 250 volunteers, and donated tree care services, hazardous and invasive trees were removed, trails were established, and new trees and shrubs were planted and educational themes were established. The event emphasized 30 years of Tree City USA, which New Jersey has two of the original 17 (Paramus and Parsippany) Tree Cities nationwide. Governor Jon Corzine attended the event and signed a state proclamation noting the theme of this Arbor Day was



Volunteers and school children supervise tree planting in Newark.

proper management and proper practices in New Jersey's town urban forest.

### **Volunteers Make the Difference**

“Celebrate Arbor Day New Jersey!” and “Make a Difference with Trees!” projects continue to surpass all expectations. 499 groups planted 21,500 trees and over 70,000 tree-tube seedlings and 46 volunteer groups planted 3,800 trees respectively.

### **Sustain and Maintain – State Construction Projects Pull Their Weight in Green**

The No Net Loss Reforestation Act that requires state entities to that deforest a half acre or more of forested area to provide for its mitigation has resulted in just this pass year 3.6 million dollars of tree planting compensation for eighteen communities. Over 14,000 trees will be planted to off set the tree loss within state construction projects.

### **Green Trees for Easy Breathing**

The Urban Airshed Reforestation project designed to link tree planting in an urban environment to better air quality has planted its 1600th tree of over 40 species with 33 community-based groups in 16 of the 21 neighborhoods of Camden City (89,000 pop.) with the help of over 2300 volunteers.