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State Contact

Drew Todd, Urban Forestry Coordinator
Ohio Department of Natural Resources
Division of Forestry
2045 Morse Road, Building H-1
Columbus, OH 43229-6693
Phone: 614-265-6707
Fax: 614-447-9231
E-mail: Drew.todd@dnr.state.oh.us
Web Site: <http://www.ohiodnr.com/forestry/Urban/urbanfor.htm>

Ohio's 2006 Accomplishment Report

Introduction

Ohio's Urban Forestry Program, created in 1979, is a state-supported service of the Ohio Department of Natural Resources, providing organizational and technical urban forestry assistance primarily to community officials and allied agencies. A statewide network of regional urban foresters helps communities manage their urban forest resources to meet local needs.

For the 24th consecutive year, Ohio was the national leader in the number of Tree City USA communities. Ohio's **233** designated Tree City USA cities and villages demonstrate a continuing commitment to enhancing the quality of life through the proper management of their urban forest resources.

Restoring Trees Lost to Emerald Ash Borer

As Ohio's battle with Emerald Ash Borer intensified during the year, so to did the Division of Forestry's **Emerald Ash Borer Canopy Restoration Effort**. Restoration programs for affected property owners in North Baltimore, Oregon, and Toledo were initiated. By partnering with the Ohio Department of Agriculture and the USDA Forest Service, a process was formulated to address the canopy loss for the affected property owners. A total of 2,087 restoration trees were provided to residential, municipal, and commercial property owners.

Using a Forest Service grant, a new Urban Forester was hired to handle Emerald Ash Borer issues in urban areas. The **EAB Urban Forester** will administer the abovementioned EAB Canopy Restoration Program, along with various ash reduction initiatives. Additionally, this three-year project employee will work with communities to help them prepare and/or deal with this non-native invasive insect.



Unloading trees that will be planted as part of the EAB restoration project.

More Certified Arborists for SE Ohio

In the rural southeastern corner of the state, there are few ISA Certified Arborists and a growing interest in urban forestry. As a response, a partnership has evolved to promote the professional practice of arboriculture while addressing local community forestry needs. With a grant from the Forest Service, the International Society of Arboriculture has provided the ODNR Urban Forestry Section with educational materials, resources and scholarships for local participants who meet minimum ISA arborist requirements and who are willing to donate 80 hours of community service in the field of urban forestry. A series of workshops were planned for 15 aspiring arborists. Over the next two years, these local arborists from small communities throughout southern Ohio will be working closely with ODNR's urban forester to develop local service projects that address the local needs and interests of the arborist's choice.