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Pennsylvania's 2006 Accomplishment Report

Introduction

The Pennsylvania Urban & Community Forestry Program is a partnership among the Pennsylvania Bureau of Forestry, the Pennsylvania State University Cooperative Extension Program, and Pennsylvania Community Forests, with financial and technical support from the USDA Forest Service. The mission of the program is to assist communities in developing comprehensive and sustainable urban forestry programs for the purpose of enhancing quality of life.

Program Highlights: Statewide

Land Use Planning Training for Service Foresters

Pennsylvania State University's (PSU) University Park faculty, in partnership with Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR) Bureau of Forestry, DCNR Bureau of Recreation and Conservation, and Pennsylvania Municipalities Planning Institute, provided the first full day workshop on comprehensive land use planning and regulation to over 100 Pennsylvania Bureau of Forestry staff. This training session provided an overview of the Pennsylvania Municipalities Planning Code and how comprehensive plans, zoning, subdivision and land development ordinances, planned unit development, traditional neighborhood design, and timber harvest and tree preservation ordinances may be used to conserve natural resources in growing places.

Publications

Every year about 5000 people receive two issues of newsletter Urban Forestry News and two issues of the magazine *Sylvan Communities*, publications of Pennsylvania Community Forests. People use these publications to increase their knowledge and awareness of urban and community forestry. A new web site www.patrees.org which is a clearinghouse of tree related web resources for homeowners and tree enthusiasts has been developed.

Program Highlights: Northeast

Anti-Topping Campaign

Think Before You Top – Get the Facts Community Tree Awareness Campaign reached 1.4 million people in northeastern Pennsylvania in 2006. A marketing campaign that focused on stopping the destructive practice of tree topping has been developed working closely with Charlotte King, a marketing consultant. A logo, poster, fact sheet, and positive message "Think Before You Top – Get the Facts," have been developed to explain topping, reiterate that topping is not a solution for reducing tree size, and educate about the

continued cost of topping trees, and the physical harm it causes to trees. The program has received two grants totaling \$20,000 from the USDA Forest Service and raised over \$12,000 from sponsors such as PenDel Chapter - International Society of Arboriculture, Pennsylvania Community Forests, Dincher & Dincher Tree Service, Pennsylvania Electric Company and others. The Pennsylvania Power & Light alone mailed the message to 1.3 million customers this April. A morning informational spot with the local weatherman on Arbor Day actually caused the PATrees website (www.patrees.org) to crash due to the huge influx of visitors to the site. The band width was expanded and the website was brought back online.

Program Highlights: Southeast

TreeVitalize Educational Workshops

Working with the Pennsylvania Horticulture Society and other partners, and with \$4,000,000 in funding from the Pennsylvania DCNR, William Penn Foundation, and other sponsors, the extension urban forestry program is supporting the educational efforts of the Pennsylvania DCNR TreeVitalize program to provide workshops and other educational programs to municipalities and volunteer organizations in the five county Philadelphia Region. As of fall 2006, volunteers from 70 municipalities have been offered training on tree planting, species selection, pruning, and other urban forestry topics through evening Tree Tender workshops offered in each county.

Natural Resource Outreach for Municipal Officials

With funding of \$180,000 from the Bureau of Forestry and USDA Forest Service, and in partnership with the Pennsylvania Horticulture Society and Delaware Valley Planning Commission, the Penn State Extension Urban Forestry Program is developing a strategy and program for natural resource outreach to senior elected and appointed municipal officials in the five-county Philadelphia region. This effort concentrates on increasing an appreciation for urban trees among elected officials, borough managers, and others to encourage policy and financing that promote natural resource management in municipalities.

Program Highlights: Southwest

Pittsburgh Welcomed as New Tree City USA

In 2006, Pittsburgh completed a full inventory of their street trees as well as a plan to manage the much needed tree removal, tree pruning, and tree planting. With assistance of \$450,000 from the Mellon Foundation, \$200,000 from the Heinz Foundation, and a promise of at least \$250,000 from the Pennsylvania DCNR, the southwest extension urban forester has been actively involved in assisting the Pittsburgh Tree Commission and Friends of the Pittsburgh Urban Forest (a new non-profit Friends organization) with the management and rejuvenation of their tree commission and street tree program. In 2005, Pittsburgh was named a TreeCity USA for the first time. The late Mayor, Bob O'Conner, accepted the award at a small Arbor Day Ceremony in the neighborhood of Homewood. This much-loved Pittsburgher understood the true value of trees to his city. A goal of this extension effort is to formalize a Pittsburgh Tree Tenders Program that would train and utilize volunteers in the 66 neighborhoods to plant and maintain street and park trees.

Program Highlights: Central

Inventory & Management Plan for Military Lands

With funding of \$22,000, urban forestry faculty at the Penn State School of Forest Resources has completed the first tree inventory and tree management plan for Fort Indiantown Gap Military Reservation, the home of the Pennsylvania National Guard. The Pennsylvania National Guard is interested in comprehensively managing street, park, and landscape trees to sustain and increase quality of life, morale, healing, and the environmental services provided by community trees (shade and cooling).