

Accomplishment Report 2007 – Michigan

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State Contact

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Introduction

The Michigan Urban and Community Forestry (UCF) program promotes the stewardship of urban natural resources through technical, educational and financial assistance to communities, their leaders and citizens. This assistance, made possible through the USDA Forest Service, is critically important in helping communities recover, maintain and manage their tree resources in the wake of ongoing threats such as emerald ash borer (EAB).

Michigan, the 8th most populous state in the nation, is largely urban with nearly 80% of its roughly 10 million residents living in a metropolitan area. During FY 07, more than 4.6 million people benefited from living in communities provided with UCF assistance.

Highlighted Project

TreeKeeper workshops and reference manual for community volunteers and municipal staff, Birmingham, Huntington Woods, Royal Oak, Southfield in southeast Oakland County

Purpose: This project was designed to combine technical work on public education materials with on-the-ground tree mulching practices carried out primarily by citizen volunteers. Objectives included:

- Clarifying key messages related to tree maintenance, natural mulches and compost
- Preparing a “tree mulching and maintenance notebook” for volunteers and municipal staff
- Sponsoring citizen leadership and volunteer training
- Organizing three mulching demonstration projects at public sites in southeast Oakland County
- Documenting the impact that citizen volunteers can have on tree care practices.

Accomplishments:

Attendance at each of the training classes and demonstration workshop was “off the chart” according to the grantee, Ms. Lillian Dean with the Southeast Oakland County Water & Resource Recovery Authority (SOCWA). Some specific accomplishments include:

- Creating and supplying 80 TreeKeeper reference manuals
- Holding two training classes and three demonstration mulching events in five communities

- Training 88 community volunteers and municipal staff
- Planting, mulching and/or pruning 15 trees during demonstration events



1,600 containerized landscape trees were available for purchase by homeowners residing in 21 EAB quarantined counties.

partnered with the www.forestryforum.com to create a message board for Urban and Community Forestry. Likewise, the UCF program website (www.mi.gov/dnrucf) added several new resources including links to three online discussion forums, a listing of consulting arborists in the state, and a biannual program newsletter (*Community Canopy*). In FY07, the website received more than 10,160 visits.

Partnerships

In 2006-07, a partnership initiative between the Michigan Department of Natural Resources, DTE Energy Foundation, USDA Forest Service, Michigan Department of Agriculture, Michigan's Governor's Office and local governments was developed to assist homeowners impacted by the EAB infestation replace lost ash trees. The pilot program, called Restoration of Our Trees (ROOT), was modeled after two similar tree planting programs in Iowa, Operation ReLeaf and Plant Some Shade.

Awareness

The DNR's UCF program uses a variety of resources to communicate the importance of trees and their care to our audiences throughout the state. Central to this effort are web and email-based technologies. This year, the UCF program

To assist communities in dealing with the impacts of EAB, the DNR, working with the state Department of Agriculture, Michigan State University Extension and the Southeast Oakland County Resource Conservation and Development Council developed and promoted the EAB Community Preparedness Plan. This document outlines what communities should expect to face when EAB arrives and how to plan and manage its impacts.

Outreach and Environmental Equity

Envirothon

Michigan's UCF program targets environmental and conservation education issues through continued support of the State's participation in the national Envirothon program. Sponsored by the Michigan Association of Conservation Districts, more than 115 students participated in a series of competitive, environmental knowledge events held in Lexington, MI this year.

Tree City/ Tree Line USA

Communities and utilities continue to increase participation in the Tree City/Line USA programs. All but one community/utility recertified from the previous year. Three new communities (Burr Oak, Coldwater, and Petersburg) and one utility (International Transmission Company) were added to the growing ranks of Michigan's 111 Tree Cities and 4 utilities this year. Additionally, twelve communities were honored with the Growth Award. Michigan currently ranks 9th nationally, spending an average of \$8.82 per capita on tree care. The Village of Richland (pop. 593), and City of Detroit (pop 950,000), remain the smallest and largest, respectively.

Statistics

Managing and Developing Communities:	173 (of 647 w/potential)
Population of Participating Communities:	4,622,831
Volunteer Assistance generated (hours):	10,936
Tree City USA Communities (2006):	111
Tree City USA Growth Awards (2006):	12