

Accomplishment Report 2007 – Delaware

October 17, 2007

State Contact

Henry Poole

Urban Forestry Coordinator

Delaware Forest Service

502 Blackbird Forest Road

Smyrna, DE 19977

Phone: (302) 659-6705

Fax: (302) 653-2869

E-mail: henry.poole@state.de.us

Web Site: <http://www.state.de.us/deptagri/forestry/conser.shtml#Urban>

Introduction

The Delaware Forest Service's Urban & Community Forestry (U&CF) Program provides technical, educational, and financial assistance to cities, towns, homeowners, and non-profit organizations in order to maximize the benefits of our natural resources. In addition to their scenic beauty, these forest resources help to moderate our climate, improve air and water quality, conserve energy and reduce storm water run-off.

As a component of the U&CF Program the Delaware Forest Service (DFS) offers grants to municipalities, educators, non-profit organizations, and government agencies for tree planting and tree management projects on public lands. Since the program's inception in 1991, the DFS has awarded more than \$1.5 million in grants to more than 100 organizations to improve their urban forest resources.

Wilmington Receives Home Depot Foundation Award

The City of Wilmington was awarded the Home Depot Award for Excellence in Community Trees. The award was announced at the 75th Annual Meeting of the U. S. Conference of Mayors on June 23rd in Los Angeles. Wilmington was chosen largely for strategic planning and tree planting efforts spearheaded by the Delaware Center for Horticulture (DCH). DCH was presented with the award totaling \$75,000.



DCH continues to build "green" partners in Wilmington.

Volunteers Help Plant Bare Root Trees

On March 24th, the Delaware Center for Horticulture and the Home Depot Foundation sponsored a bare root tree planting in Wilmington's 11th Street Bridge neighborhood. Over seventy-five

volunteers helped to plant forty-five trees in several different locations thorough out the neighborhood. Recent rain made for a very muddy day but that did not deter the volunteers.

The project was the first of its kind in Delaware. Bare root trees are much easier for volunteers to plant and cost less to plant than do balled and burlaped trees. The project was such a success that other bare root planting projects are scheduled for the fall.

Keeping Development in Check

In FY07, the U&CF Program reviewed subdivision plans for 30 proposed development projects in New Castle County, and 94 forest buffer ordinances in Sussex County. The U&CF Program participates in the subdivision review

process in order to provide technical recommendations to developers to preserve and mitigate our natural resources.

In FY07 the U&CF Program continued to partner with the State Office of Planning and other state agencies to implement the Preliminary Land Use Service (PLUS) Process. This process has streamlined the review of new development projects allowed for improved working relations between state, county and local governments and private development and engineering firms. For FY07 the U&CF Program commented on sixty proposed developments.

One Thousand Trees for Smyrna

Smyrna is a quaint town in northern Kent County that like many communities faces many challenges as it grows. One problem town officials realized is the lack of trees within the town in certain areas that had tree cover historically. One Thousand Trees for Smyrna is a program the town has adopted to encourage residents to plant trees within town limits. The Smyrna Tree Commission has partnered with the U&CF Program to complete a STRATUM tree inventory to assist the town with comprehensive urban forestry planning efforts.



Father and son water a new tree.



i-Tree software is a valuable tool for planning efforts