

Accomplishment Report 2007 – Maryland

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State Program Overview

The Department of Natural Resources (DNR) preserves, protects, enhances and restores Maryland's natural resources for the wise use and enjoyment of all citizens. The Maryland Urban and Community Forestry Program (UCF) helps the Department accomplish this in urban areas.

Issues/Opportunities

More than 86% of Marylanders live in urban areas, but the majority of this urbanization is highly concentrated in the Baltimore-Washington corridor. Minimizing sprawl through Smart Growth while maintaining natural resource quality in the urban core and minimizing urbanization's impacts on the Chesapeake Bay are our main challenges, along with combating the newly rediscovered emerald ash borer (EAB).

Significant Community Projects

Urban Tree Canopy (UTC) Initiative, Urban areas state-wide; focus on Annapolis, MD

Purpose: Increase tree canopy in urban areas.

Maryland's State capital of Annapolis continues to implement its goal of increasing UTC from 41% to 50% by 2036. State agency officials (MAIF, DNR) recently began coordination with city staff to plant 240 new street trees. The current phase of the project will occur in an area of two census blocks that have diversity rankings of 0.28 to greater than 0.48 according to US Census data. The event was kicked off with a media event

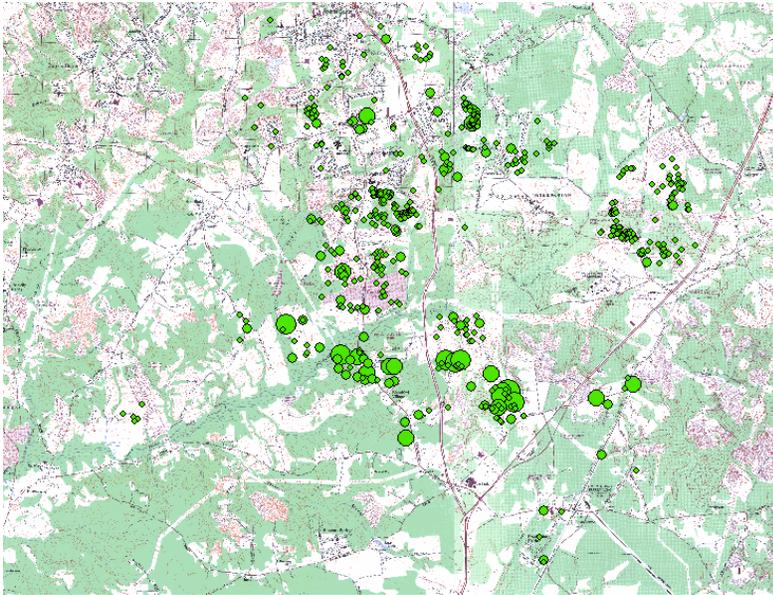
(<http://www.ci.annapolis.md.us/headlines.asp?ID=11639>) hosted by the mayor, members of the city council, and representatives of the various agencies involved. The city is also conducting free tree giveaways to city residents and homeowners to encourage

an increase in UTC on private property.



EAB Tree Replacement, Southern Prince George's County

Purpose: To provide trees to property owners whose trees were destroyed by the application of a treatment applied to destroy plant pests under a quarantine imposed by the state Secretary of Agriculture. In 2007 the Maryland General Assembly passed House Bill 1429, Reforestation - Replacing Trees Destroyed by Pest Treatments. The bill was initiated by the DNR's UCF program and altered the purpose of the Reforestation Fund in the DNR to include planting trees on private property to replace trees that were destroyed by a treatment to control plant pests.



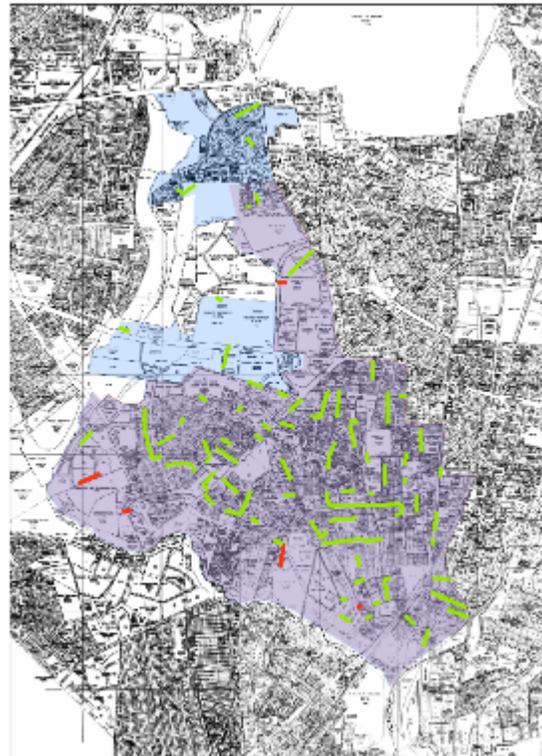
Working with the state Department of Agriculture, the UCF program developed a geodatabase of affected properties. This geographic information system tool includes all qualifying removals and will be used to track participation in the tree replacement program, including property owner acceptance, tree ordering and contractor activity. To date, 529 property owners are eligible to receive 1,178 trees via the state special fund source, which is funded by agencies performing highway construction and needing to mitigate for related forest loss.

Hyattsville STRATUM analysis, Hyattsville, MD

Purpose: Report on the city's street tree resource using the U.S. Forest Service i-Tree software suite. The total number of potential street tree planting sites in Hyattsville is estimated to be approximately 7,700. Stocking level is 38 percent. Approximately 20 percent of street trees are in conflict with overhead utilities and approximately 20 percent are in conflict with hardscapes (curbs, sidewalks, etc.).

The tree population has fairly good diversity. Willow and pin oaks are the most important species and dominate contributions to canopy cover. Two of the three most common ornamental trees (callery pear, plum) are problem species and should be phased out.

The existing trees are well managed. Very few stumps, dead, standing trees, or critical maintenance needs were observed.



Ecosystem services provided by city street trees include stormwater management (\$104,818), energy avoidance (\$44,944), carbon sequestration (\$8,428) and air quality improvement (\$2,706). The total annual value of benefits provided by the trees is \$ 281,389, \$ 96.30 in annual benefits per tree, and \$ 18.53 in annual benefits per capita.

The cost: benefit ratio for city street trees is 0.90. This ratio does not compare favorably with the ratios found in certain other U.S. cities and is likely due to differences in energy costs in the other cities; species selection differences; high per tree maintenance expenditures in Hyattsville; and low overall tree population in Hyattsville.

Statistics

Managing and Developing Communities:	365
Population of Participating Communities:	4,243,613
Volunteer Assistance generated (hours):	57,827

FTE capacity: 7 UCF Program-dedicated FTEs. Numerous other field staff perform UCF duties on a part time or as needed basis.