

2007 Accomplishment Report – New Jersey

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Program Overview

The New Jersey Community Forestry Program is a unique partnership between government, business, and volunteers caring for trees where people live, work and play. Under the authority provided by the state legislature within the Community Forestry Assistance Act (P.L. 1996, Chapter 135), the program encourages, promotes and assists cities and towns in the establishment, retention, and enhancement of trees and forest resources. The Community Forestry Program is dedicated to making communities more livable by providing grants, technical assistance, training, and volunteer opportunities. The program continues to seek leading edge opportunities and innovative initiatives to build a sustainable statewide effort to manage local publicly owned trees and forest. Through the use of Federal Urban and Community Forestry (UCF) funding, the goal of having a statewide community forestry initiative is ensuing.

Program Accomplishments

With the assistance of the New Jersey Community Forestry Council, the Forest Health Advisory Council P.L. 2007, Chapter 44, was passed unanimously by the legislature and signed into law by Governor Jon Corzine. This law was the result of the effort to address the threats to our forests and community trees in New Jersey by establishing the ability for the State to study and track the spread of exotic and local pathogens. The council will evaluate New Jersey's susceptibility to forest health issues, make



The New Jersey Community Forestry Council.

recommendations to the Governor and the Commissioner of the DEP, regarding prevention, management, treatment, control and then seek advice, counsel and resources to address those identified forest health issues.

The New Jersey Community Forestry Program continued its successful campaign to emphasize inner city activities and linking both low tree cover and communities that have not participated in the state's Community Forestry Program. The Green

Communities Grants program using Federal UCF funds added 14 new non participating municipalities to the Community Forestry Assistance Act's list for the development of a community forestry management plan. The Federal UCF funds are critical in adding towns and cities to the state's very successful ongoing program. With the assistance of the Federal UCF funds, more than 44 percent of New Jersey's cities and towns are now actively managing trees and community forest at the local level.

The State Arbor Day Event highlighted the use of trees for energy conservation in a magnificent event held in Asbury Park. With the help of more than 200 volunteers, new trees and shrubs were planted. The



2007 State Arbor Day Student award winner.

event emphasized the use of trees in cities to help against the urban heat island effect and the concept of the significance of increasing tree canopy cover. As in years past, Tree City USA awards were handed out along with the Joyce Kilmer Award and the annual Arbor Day student contest awards. Governor Corzine signed a state proclamation noting the theme of energy conservation through the planting of trees.

This was the 11th consecutive year for “Celebrate Arbor Day New Jersey!” and “Make a Difference with Trees!” projects. Both continue to surpass all expectations, with 553 groups planting 25,500 trees and more than 80,000 tree-tube seedlings.

The first field office for the Community Forestry Program was opened in Somerset to help address the growth of the program. Programs such as Cool Cities, Asian longhorned beetle and No-Net Loss are directed out of the field office.

With 14 new cities bringing the overall Tree City USA state count to 145, New Jersey had the highest increase of any state. New Jersey also ranked 5th in the nation and leads the Northeastern states as well.

Statistics

Number of Participating Communities:	288
Volunteer Assistance generated (hours):	31,500
Number of Tree City USA Communities:	145
Number of Growth Awards:	14
Number of Managing Communities:	167
Number of Developing Communities:	121
Population of Participating Communities:	5,919,943
Number of Communities with Advocacy/ Advisory Organizations:	367



Tree Tenders Workshop in Camden City.