

Accomplishment Report 2007 – Ohio

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State Contact

Drew Todd

Urban Forestry Coordinator

Ohio Department of Natural Resources

Division of Forestry

2045 Morse Road, Building H-1

Columbus, OH 43229-6693

Phone: (614) 265-6707

Fax: (614) 447-9231

E-mail: Drew.todd@dnr.state.oh.us

Web site: <http://www.ohiodnr.com/forestry/Urban/urbanfor.htm>

State Forester: Dr. David Lytle

Program Overview

Ohio's Urban Forestry Program, created in 1979, is a state-supported service of the Ohio Department of Natural Resources (ODNR), providing organizational and technical urban forestry assistance primarily to community officials and allied agencies. A statewide network of regional urban foresters helps communities manage their urban forest resources to meet local needs.

Six regional urban foresters, through one-on-one assistance, encourage, enhance, and/or expand local tree care programs within participating communities. Through technical knowledge, the urban foresters convey the benefits of a safe, healthy, and functional urban forest resource to community leaders. Using organizational skills they demonstrate how to effectively provide these benefits by properly managing the urban forest resource.

As a result of the emerald ash borer's (EAB) Ohio invasion, our program also relies on the services of an EAB urban forester to assist the regional urban foresters in helping communities prepare for their impending infestation.

Tree City USA

For the 26th consecutive year, Ohio was the national leader in the number of Tree City USA communities. Ohio's 248 designated Tree City USA cities and villages demonstrate a continuing commitment to enhancing the quality of life through the proper management of their urban forest resources.

Significant Community Projects

Moving communities from EAB apathy to EAB action has been the program's major focus. The Ohio Urban and Community Forestry Program's primary effort is to help communities develop and implement EAB



EAB Urban Forester Marianne Prue, helps conduct an ash tree inventory.

Management Plans. When completed these are posted online at:
<http://www.ohiodnr.com/Home/eab/management/tabid/5073/Default.aspx>.

To help communities appreciate and plan for the economic burden they face from an EAB infestation, the regional urban foresters are assisting them conduct ash street tree inventories. In an effort to make data collection efficient, effective, and uniform, the regional urban foresters are using the MCTI software and PDAs to collect data on these rights-of-way ash trees. Communities are sharing their surveys with ODNR for statewide analysis.

These communities are proactively removing public ash trees: Columbus, Cleveland, Shaker Heights, Arcadia, Oxford (Miami University), Mason, Upper Arlington, Dublin, Grove City, Grandview Heights, Canal Winchester, Granville, Marietta, Washington CH, Westerville, Bexley, Marysville, Springfield, Springboro, Cincinnati, Lebanon, Sidney, Strongsville, Delaware, and Wright Patterson AFB.

Statistical Highlights

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| Population percent living in managing communities: | 41.12% |
| Population percent living in developing communities: | 42.45% |
| People living in assisted communities: | 5,675,386 |
| People living in developing communities: | 2,882,628 |
| People living in managing communities: | 2,792,758 |
| Communities with management plans: | 80 |
| Communities with professional staff: | 103 |
| Communities with ordinances or policies: | 339 |
| Communities with local advocacy/advisory organizations: | 309 |
| Number of volunteer service hours: | 48,454 |
| Tree City USA Communities: | 248 |
| Tree City Growth Awards: | 30 |
| Tree Line USA Awards: | 4 |