

2008 Accomplishment Report – District of Columbia

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Introduction

Within the government of the District of Columbia, the Urban Forestry Administration (UFA) is the agency responsible for urban street trees. UFA's duties include planting, pruning, removing, and maintaining the health of the District of Columbia's street tree canopy. UFA is one of five administrations in the District Department of Transportation (DDOT). In late 2007, UFA became responsible for the maintenance of trees and wooded areas located on District park and recreation properties as well as street trees. Staff have assessed these properties, removed hazardous trees in public spaces, and begun the task of inventorying these areas. Other areas of concern are enhancing the city's urban tree canopy, particularly on District properties, and assessing the invasive species and health status of street trees and other trees in the District.

The UFA continues to extend its reach into serving other sectors of the District's government and community members. In late 2007, using Forest Service funds, we hired a community outreach coordinator. This new staff member gave UFA the ability to reach out to citizens in all advisory neighborhood commissions to inform them of grant opportunities, programs, and services offered by the UFA. These efforts have increased UFA's effectiveness and improved its delivery of services. The community outreach coordinator position is now a District-funded position. As of October 2008, we have 18 ISA-certified urban foresters on staff, including three municipal arborists, and one landscape architect.

Key Accomplishments

Ooze Tube Watering Project, Washington, DC

More than 4,000 street trees have been planted this season by the DDOT's Urban Forestry Administration as part of a District-wide effort to regreen DC. This past summer, the UFA announced a new campaign to assist with the watering of newly planted trees. Residents who adopt a tree on their block can receive a free ooze tube tree watering bag. Ooze tubes are excellent for watering trees because once filled, they allow a tree to be watered very slowly and ensure water availability during periods of hot, dry weather. They require refilling every 1 to 2 weeks and allow air circulation to the trunk of the tree. More than 100 DC residents have participated as new stewards of our street trees in their neighborhoods. The Urban Forestry Administration and nonprofit partners distributed over 1,060 ooze tubes in 2008.

Casey Trees 2008 High School Internship Program

Over the past 5 years, the Casey Trees internship program has been teaching DC high school students about urban forestry and introducing them to the opportunities of emerging careers in arboriculture, urban forestry, landscape architecture, and other "green" jobs. The program also teaches job basics—getting to work on time, completing assigned tasks, writing a resume, and how to interview, among others. In 2008, the program accepted 10 students. In addition to a rigorous educational program, this year's interns spent

2 days shadowing urban and municipal foresters at the UFA. Staff members provided them with a range of real world experiences working in a municipal tree program and interacted one on one with the students.

Homeowner Tree Forums in Washington, DC, and Fairfax County, Virginia

As part of the U.S. Forest Service’s I-95 grant program, a series of homeowner tree forums was proposed for residents of Washington, DC, and northern Virginia. These two areas were chosen because they comprise a portion of the Washington, DC, metro area even though they are located in two Forest Service regions. One of these forums, a family neighborhood tree walk and tree planting, was held at the Southgate Community Center in Reston, VA. The focus of this event was to encourage family participation and interaction through an active lifestyle and to cultivate a greater appreciation of nature and the environment. Youth volunteers competed in a t-shirt design contest in early August before the tree planting forum was held in early October. This event was cosponsored by the UFA, Fairfax County Virginia Cooperative Extension, Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments, and Fairfax County Community and Recreation Services. One additional forum was held at Bailey’s Community Center in Falls Church, VA, in September, and two will be held in Washington, DC.



Students, parents, and staff of the Southgate Community Center in Reston, VA, celebrate the planting of a new redbud tree on the community center grounds



This winning t-shirt design was chosen for the Reston, VA, tree planting event.

Statistical Highlights

Managing and Developing Communities	1
Population of Participating Communities	581,530
Volunteer Assistance Generated (hours)	30,980