

2008 Accomplishment Report – Delaware

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Introduction

The Delaware Forest Service's Urban & Community Forestry (U&CF) Program provides technical, educational, and financial assistance to cities, towns, homeowners, and nonprofit organizations to maximize the benefits of our natural resources. In addition to their scenic beauty, these forest resources help moderate our climate, improve air and water quality, conserve energy, and reduce stormwater runoff. The Delaware U&CF program provided a total of 434 community assists during FY08.

As a component of the U&CF Program, the Delaware Forest Service offers grants to municipalities, educators, nonprofit organizations, and government agencies for tree planting and tree management projects on public lands. Since the program's inception in 1991, the Delaware Forest Service has awarded over 1.5 million in grants to over 100 organizations to improve their urban forest resources. The Delaware Forest Service U&CF program awarded over \$111,000 in grant funds to 30 communities in FY08.

Key Accomplishments

Heat Island Mitigation in Wilmington

The Delaware Forest Service U&CF program partnered with the Delaware Center for Horticulture (DCH) and the Delaware Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control (DNREC) Air Quality Management Section on a heat island mitigation project in Wilmington. The project was funded through Community Development Block Grant, State Penalty Funds, and U&CF funds. Fifteen swamp white oak and two Okame Cherry trees were planted on a parking lot owned by the Bethel Temple Community Development Group. An additional 2,500 square feet of planting space was also added to the site for future planting.



Workers remove concrete to make way for tree planting.

DCH also was awarded an additional heat island grant totaling \$49,000 through the new U.S. Forest Service competitive grant process.

Spreading the Word

The Delaware Forest Service U&CF program has stepped up outreach efforts by tapping into the mass media markets in Delaware. In the spring, the U&CF Coordinator was featured on *Comcast News Makers*, a short spot on the local cable affiliate that highlights local events. The discussion with host Carla Showell-Lee, which reached about 70,000 homes, lasted about 2 minutes where the benefits of trees were discussed.

In addition to television, the U&CF program also utilized a full-color insert in the Sunday September 28 edition of the *Delaware News Journal* to advocate the new Spruce Up! Delaware Campaign. The insert highlighted the proper care of trees and included a \$10 coupon for recommended trees at one of four sponsoring nurseries throughout the state. It is estimated that over 128,000 people read the insert.

Statewide Urban Forestry Planning Efforts

The Delaware Forest Service has selected the communities of Middletown, Smyrna, and Lewes to receive funding from a U.S. Forest Service grant to develop urban tree canopy goals.

Approximately \$11,600 was awarded to each community to plant trees for on-the-ground efforts to increase tree canopy. The Delaware Forest Service began this summer to inventory the street and park trees in each community as well as bring stakeholders to the table to develop comprehensive management plans. The Delaware Forest Service will continue these efforts with an additional \$172,500 awarded through the U.S. Forest Service competitive grant process.

Evergreen
Delaware Community Forestry Council News
May 11, 2008

2008 Urban and Community Grant Program
Goal is to help fund community-based tree projects. Deadline is June 20th.

The Delaware Forest Service invites municipalities and interested groups throughout Delaware to apply for a 2008 Urban and Community Forestry Grant, which can fund up to 50 percent of the cost of a community-based tree project.

There is a \$1000 maximum in each of two grant categories: tree planting or tree management. The program's goal is to diversify, enhance, and promote the proper stewardship of Delaware's urban forest resources. Since its inception in 2001, over \$1.3 million in grants have helped pay for the costs of planting, pruning, or removing hazardous trees on public lands in Delaware. Last year's program awarded 28 grants totaling over \$230,000.

"This year, we're trying to encourage tree applications by offering extra grants in the grant award process to first-time participants," said Henry Poole, Urban Forestry Coordinator.

The grants are part of a matching system that the grant committee will use to award the funds at its meeting in July. Other factors considered include whether the project will benefit urban tree canopy, improve water quality, provide shade, or serve an educational goal. Some projects also go to Delaware's current Tree City USA or Delaware Tree Friendly communities.

"It's important to broaden the reach of our grants, while getting more folks involved in community tree projects," Poole said.

The deadline to apply is June 20th. Grant materials and application at: www.dfs.delaware.gov/grants

For further information, contact Henry Poole at (302) 839-6700, or send an email to henry.p@dnr.de.gov

Coming this fall, DFS and the Community Forestry Council are meeting to work on the Delaware Incentive and Landscaping Assistance to help "Spruce Up" Delaware. This is a pilot program to encourage homeowners to plant trees on their property to help a goal of canopy in participating watersheds. Contact participating nurseries. Limited participating.

WHAT TREE IS IT?

C2022

It's similar to the olive tree species in the world, originating thousands of years ago in China.

C2023

Each tree is either male or female and makes an excellent specimen tree for your yard. After consultation with a tree care professional.

C2024

The tree, however, can be used as a buffer or windbreak, and makes an excellent specimen tree for your yard.

C2025

So, what tree is it? ANSWER on PAGE 4



Marcia Fox inventories Middletown's trees.