

2008 Accomplishment Report – Maryland

State Contact

Marian Honecny
Maryland Department of Natural Resources
Forest Service
580 Taylor Avenue E-1
Annapolis, MD 21401
Phone: (410) 260-8511
Fax: (410) 260-8595
E-mail: mhonecny@dnr.state.md.us
Web site:
<http://www.dnr.state.md.us/forests/programs/urban/>

State Forester

Steven W. Koehn
Maryland Department of Natural Resources
Forest Service
580 Taylor Avenue
Annapolis, MD 21401
Phone: (410) 260-8501
Fax: (410) 260-8595
E-mail: skoehn@dnr.state.md.us

Introduction

The Maryland Department of Natural Resources Forest Service is the State agency responsible for the management and protection of the State's urban forestry resources. The group within the Forest Service with direct oversight of these resources is called the Urban and Community Forestry (U&CF) Program.

The U&CF Program protects existing trees and forests by implementing and enforcing laws, licensing individuals that perform tree care work, and training local government employees about tree care. The program reaches out to citizens through tree planting opportunities and the Maryland Urban and Community Forest Committee. The program recognizes counties, towns, and other groups for involvement in the care and planting of trees within their jurisdictions. The U&CF Program supports six full-time equivalent staff with numerous other field staff dedicated to performing related U&CF duties on an as-needed basis.

Key Accomplishments

Urban Tree Canopy Assessment and Goal-setting Efforts

Maryland continues to take the lead in meeting the goals of the Chesapeake Executive Council Riparian Forest Buffer Directive No. 03-0. This year the Maryland Forest Service worked with many local jurisdictions to complete assessments of their urban tree canopy (UTC) coverage and to develop goals for tree canopy expansion. Maryland now has a total of 40 communities engaged in UTC efforts and a complete assessment for Baltimore County. This year, three communities within the State (Cumberland, Frederick, and Hyattsville) completed UTC assessments and are moving ahead with UTC goal-setting efforts, and three communities (Bowie, Greenbelt, and Edmonston) are completing UTC assessments and anticipating possible goal-setting efforts in FY2009.

City of Cumberland's Tree Canopy Report and Collaborative Efforts

In October 2008, a report titled, "The City of Cumberland's Existing and Possible Urban Tree Canopy," was released. The goal of the project was to apply the U.S. Forest Service UTC assessment protocol to the city of Cumberland using high-resolution aerial imagery obtained in 2007. The analysis showed that Cumberland's existing tree canopy is 49% with 60% of this coverage due to large forested patches within the city. Without these patches, existing canopy coverage of the city's more urbanized areas is 27%. These findings, along with an additional finding that 28% of the land in public rights-of-way could support tree canopy, influenced the city of Cumberland to establish UTC goals to help protect the forested patches within city limits, focus tree planting in areas of lowest canopy coverage and with the highest percentage of impervious surface coverage, and begin a more comprehensive street tree planting program.

Cumberland's UTC collaboration with the Chesapeake Bay Program, city decisionmakers, and the Maryland Department of Natural Resources now serves as a model for UTC collaboration as exemplified by a video entitled "The Power of Trees in Cumberland." The video builds on the U.S. Forest Service "Trees Pay Us Back" campaign with an indepth overview of the benefits trees provide to communities. It clearly summarizes the UTC assessment process and ends with actionable steps to assure that Cumberland's trees and forests remain healthy. The complete report can be found at <http://www.dnr.state.md.us/forests/> and the video at <http://www.chesapeakekenemo.net/cumberlandtrees.cfm>

Maryland Growing Home Campaign Wins National Award

Maryland's Growing Home Campaign was recognized as a winner of the National Association of Counties 2008 Achievement Award in July 2008. The Growing Home program is an innovative market-based approach to increase the tree canopy in the Maryland region by offering homeowners comprehensive education about tree planting. The program offers cash incentives to encourage tree planting on private residential land. Begun by Baltimore County in 2006 and expanded in 2008 to include a partnership with Baltimore City, the Growing Home program is a successful public-private partnership between local government, retail nurseries, and garden centers, and homeowners. This award-winning program is being replicated in part by Pennsylvania's TreeVitalize metropolitan initiative in FY2009. For more information, go to <http://www.baltimorecountymd.gov/Agencies/environment/growinghome/index.html>.

Statistical Highlights

Volunteer Assistance Generated (hours):	20,105
Number of Managing Communities:	87
Number of Developing Communities:	278
Population of Participating Communities:	3,132,529
Number of Communities with Advocacy/Advisory Organizations:	170