

2008 Accomplishment Report – Maine

State Contacts

Jan Ames Santerre
Program Director
Maine Department of Conservation
Maine Forest Service
22 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333-0022
Phone: (207) 287-4987
Fax: (207) 287-8422
E-mail: jan.santerre@maine.gov
Web site: <http://projectcanopy.maine.gov>

State Forester

R. Alec Giffen
Maine Forest Service
22 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333-0022
Phone: (207) 287-2791
Fax: (207) 287-8422
E-mail: alec.giffen@maine.gov

Loretta Huttman
Community Outreach Director
Pine Tree State Arboretum
153 Hospital Street
Augusta, ME 04330
Phone: (207) 623-3271
E-mail: projectcanopy@roadrunner.com

Introduction

Project Canopy, Maine's Urban and Community Forestry program, heightens public awareness of the community forest—what it is and why it is important. The program promotes comprehensive community forest management and builds and supports sustainable local community forestry programs.

In the past year, Project Canopy has worked with the Project Canopy Leadership Team and field staff to identify communities with the greatest needs that are not currently participating in the program. Over the course of the upcoming year, program staff along with field staff will be working directly with those communities to further identify ways in which we can help them work towards developing sustainable community forestry programs. Project Canopy program staff maintained assistance to participating communities and engaged additional nonparticipatory communities.

Issues and Opportunities

Mainers value strongly the connection of people with the land. Water resources, wooded areas, forests, and trees rank highest among natural resources valued for their connection with community improvement and success. Nonpoint-source polluted runoff is the number one water quality problem in Maine and the Nation. Tying forest-related activity to the health of water resources is an important motivator for decisionmakers in Maine. Project Canopy is working with watershed stakeholder groups, including the Maine Department of Environmental Protection, Maine NEMO, water districts, and local municipal officials, to explore ways in which to address this issue. Our goal is to implement current research strategies and assessment tools to identify areas where urban forest resources can best mitigate this very serious problem.

Key Accomplishments

Funding

In 2008, Maine's Project Canopy Assistance program funded 42 grants to communities and organizations, including 24 to communities that were previously not participating in the program. Of the 42 projects, 11

used the funding to develop Maine Forest Service Woods WISE plans for town forest resources. The remaining 31 cost-share grants were used to fund a variety of projects including downtown district tree planting enhancements, vacant lot enhancement, and community tree inventory and management plans. The 2008 grant program focused on sustainable management of town forest resources. More than 170 municipalities own approximately 150,000 acres of forest land. These properties, often referred to as town forests, range from 4 acres to more than 17,000 acres, and are a valuable source of clean air and water, wildlife habitat, and revenue. As Maine towns become more urbanized and open space is converted to other uses, retention of town forest properties and greenspace has become critically important to maintaining community health and quality of life.

Training

Project Canopy continues to prioritize education and training for volunteers and city staff. An educated citizenry is the most effective tool in creating viable, sustainable local urban and community forestry programs.

In 2008, Project Canopy worked with State and regional partners to deliver training to 510 adult program participants. Educational and outreach programs reached an additional 1,000 youth participants. Project Canopy not only provides educational opportunities for new volunteers, but for volunteers that have been active for years. Every year we host Tree City USA events, including a summit and arbor week events in which representatives from each of Maine's 16 Tree City USA communities are encouraged to attend for training in program development and recognition. In 2008 attendees benefited from an exercise in determining tree planting values related to climate change, as well as discussion of the wood-to-energy issue.

Maine Forest Service staff, including Project Canopy, worked collaboratively to publish a more elaborate version of our signature publication, *Forest Trees of Maine*, for the centennial anniversary. The team worked over the course of a year to completely redesign the publication, including full-color photographs, line drawings, historical photos, information about Maine's forest heritage, full summer and winter dichotomous keys, and more. The publication was unveiled for Arbor Week 2008 and met with immediate success with the public, press, and officials. To date the Department of Conservation has distributed more than 4,000 copies to partner organizations, schools, and interested individuals. Both Project Canopy and Forest Stewardship provided technical support as well as financial assistance for the production of the publication

Community Projects

Castine

The American elm, the ubiquitous canopy tree that used to shade the streets of thousands of towns across this country, was all but wiped out by Dutch elm disease in the latter part of the last century. Fortunately for the Town of Castine, Dr. Richard Campana, a University of Maine Forest Pathologist, developed the vaccination serum, which he tried out on Castine's elm trees. It worked, and, as a result, the town retains more than 300 of the gracious elms along town streets and in public spaces. In the fall of 2007, the town experienced a severe storm that toppled thousands of trees, including 14 of the beloved elms. The experience prompted the community to take a more proactive approach to the management of their public tree resource. The town has hired a consulting arborist to generate an inventory of existing street trees with the assistance of volunteers from the community. The inventory will be used to



Stately elms line the streets in the historic community of Castine, ME.

establish a long-term plan for continued tree care and maintenance to preserve the town’s trees, particularly the elms. The town is also working to rewrite a new, more comprehensive tree ordinance.

Lewiston

Using a recently completed Watershed Management Plan as a guideline, the city of Lewiston is planting 38 trees and establishing 3 rain gardens in strategic locations within the Hart Brook Watershed. Hart Brook is an urban impaired stream listed on the EPA’s 303d list of impaired water bodies. It is classified as a Class B water body, but is not meeting those criteria due to urban nonpoint source pollution. The planting locations are identified in the watershed management plan as target locations in which to focus efforts to cool water and filter harmful pollutants in stormwater runoff. The work includes participation of volunteers, and education and outreach to property owners and school children to teach about watershed health.

Bath

The city of Bath developed a management plan for two city-owned wooded areas, totaling 165 acres, integrating the principles of focus species forestry, using additional funding support from the Maine Audubon Society. The goal is to have Bath’s wooded areas provide material that can be used for local community projects and to replant harvest areas using local students. Materials harvested during the project include white pine, which was used along with damaged granite curbing by a local artisan to create cost-effective, durable seating for the City’s green spaces. The materials chosen for this project were selected specifically to reflect upon Bath’s history and sense of place. White pine was chosen to represent Bath’s shipping history, and the granite represents Maine’s coastal heritage of the “rough granite coast.”



Artisan benches located at the south boat launch in the city of Bath were constructed of white pine harvested from the city forest and reused granite curbing.

Statistical Highlights

Population of Managing and Developing Communities:	836,631
Volunteer Assistance Generated (hours):	6,686
Tree City USA Communities:	16
Tree City USA Growth Awards:	1