

2008 Accomplishment Report – Michigan

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Introduction

Utilizing 1.5 full-time equivalents (FTEs) of personnel, the Michigan Urban and Community Forestry (UCF) program promotes effective management of urban forest resources through technical, educational, and financial assistance to communities and citizens throughout the State. During FY 08, this assistance, made possible through the U.S. Forest Service, reached more than 4.9 million people living in participating communities throughout the State.

Primary program issues of focus this year continue to be related to improving urban forest management and planning, such as urban tree canopy studies; critical forest health issues, including emerald ash borer (EAB); conservation education needs, such as the Michigan Envirothon; technical/financial assistance (program subgrants and site visits); and education and outreach efforts such as Arbor Day celebrations and partnership workshops.

Key Accomplishments

Local Ash Wood Use Documentary

Title: Up From the Ashes: Documentary on using local ash wood to build the Ann Arbor Public Library

Location: Detroit and Ann Arbor

Purpose/Objective:

With grant funding from the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) UCF program, the Detroit Educational Television Foundation (DETV) contracted to have a documentary video done highlighting the local use of EAB-killed trees in the “green” building of the Ann Arbor Public Library. This project demonstrates the practical potential and use of urban wood for design and building of structures beyond the perceived niche-only markets currently being targeted. Objectives included:

- Outline EAB impacts in southeastern Michigan and implications for wood use
- Document appropriate harvesting and processing techniques used for onsite trees
- Document library construction using local ash wood for flooring and structural beams
- Create a compelling documentary to highlight cutting-edge building and engineering with “green” building standards in mind
- Produce and air documentary throughout Michigan and the Midwest on local PBS stations

Accomplishments:

- More than 50 hours of video captured
- Original planned 30-minute documentary expanded to 1 hour on advice of station managers
- Creation of DVD for distribution to stations around the State

- Scheduled to begin airing on Detroit, southeastern Michigan, and Canadian public television stations in November 2008
- Leveraged \$10,000 grant from Knight Foundation of Ann Arbor for production costs

Partnership and Awareness

In 2008, the Michigan Urban and Community Forestry Council (MUCFC) partnered with the State’s chapter of the International Society of Arboriculture and the DNR to recognize excellence in governmental urban forestry programs.



The State UCF Coordinator presents an award to Paul Albert, arborist for the city of Marquette.

At the September conference of the Arboriculture Society of Michigan (ASM) in Frankenmuth, MUCFC presented its first award for “Governmental Excellence in Urban Forestry” to the city of Marquette.

This successful partnership resulted from conversations between MUCFC members representing each organization and their shared interest in recognizing governmental UCF programs. ASM was looking to renew and expand its annual conference awards program after a 2-year hiatus, while MUCFC and the DNR were looking for a venue to initiate a new urban forestry award for governments. The result was a mutually beneficial arrangement that increased visibility for urban forestry, strengthened linkages between organizations, and ultimately promoted and recognized successful urban forest management efforts at the local level.

Tree City/Line/Campus USA

Communities and utilities continue to increase participation in the Tree City/Line USA programs. All but three communities recertified from the previous year. Five new communities (Dowagiac, Dundee, Gladstone, Lowell, and River Rouge) were added to the growing ranks of Michigan’s 115 Tree Cities and 4 utilities this year. Additionally, 10 communities were honored with the Growth Award.

To kick off the Arbor Day Foundation’s new initiative, Tree Campus USA, the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor was selected as the first campus certified and will host the kickoff announcement event for the program in fall 2008.

Statistical Highlights

Managing and Developing Communities	182 (of 664 w/potential)
Population of Participating Communities	4,914,172
Volunteer Assistance Generated (hours)	3,517
Tree City USA Communities (2007)	115
Tree City USA Growth Awards (2007)	10