

# 2008 Accomplishment Report – New Hampshire

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## Introduction

The New Hampshire Urban and Community Forestry Program works through a long-term partnership between the New Hampshire Division of Forests and Lands (DFL) and the University of New Hampshire Cooperative Extension. Staff members work cooperatively to present information on a variety of community forestry issues.

An urban forestry coordinator manages the Urban Forestry Center and Shieling Forest, and provides technical assistance and workshops to communities. A community forestry volunteer coordinator is employed by the University of New Hampshire (UNH) Cooperative Extension to implement the statewide Community Tree Steward Volunteer Program. Extension specialists at UNH and extension educators in each of the 10 counties of the State offer both scientific information and technical assistance to communities. The Community Forestry Advisory Council (CFAC), consisting of 16 members from organizations including UNH Cooperative Extension, DFL, U.S. Forest Service, Department of Transportation, public utilities, and arborists, provides leadership and direction for the statewide program. The council members have updated and approved a new 10-year Urban and Community Forestry Plan and will review and update this every 5 years.

**Urban Forestry Center** - The Urban Forestry Center in Portsmouth, NH, was a gift to the people of New Hampshire by John Elwyn Stone in 1976. The 186-acre property includes an administrative office, meeting facility, woodland walking trails, and several demonstration areas. Yearly, more than 40 educational programs are presented to enhance public knowledge of urban and community forestry. The meeting facility is used by dozens of conservation-minded groups free of charge.

**Shieling Forest** - The Shieling Forest in Peterborough was a gift to the State of New Hampshire by the late Elizabeth Yates McGreal in 1980. The 45-acre property includes a meeting facility, walking trails, and a demonstration wildflower garden. Twelve programs relating to urban and community forestry topics are presented yearly.

**New Hampshire's Natural Resources Volunteer Program**, formerly known as the Community Tree Stewards Volunteer Program, is a partnership between UNH Cooperative Extension, DFL, New Hampshire Department of Fish and Game, Natural Resources Conservation Service, and County Conservation Districts. For the first time, classes are being offered at two community technical colleges (Manchester and Stratham) for students and volunteers to participate in the 11-week training. Upon completion of the nearly 100 hours of training, volunteers donate 40 hours of service in local communities to promote the benefits of natural resources. In 2008, more than 200 people volunteered more than 11,000 hours assisting State communities by serving on land protection boards, working on

landscape projects, and conducting tree inventories. Mary Tebo, Community Volunteer Coordinator, heads up this very successful program in the Manchester/Nashua area, assisted by A.J. Dupere, Community Forester with the DFL in seacoast communities.

## Key Accomplishments

### Community Needs Assessment Survey

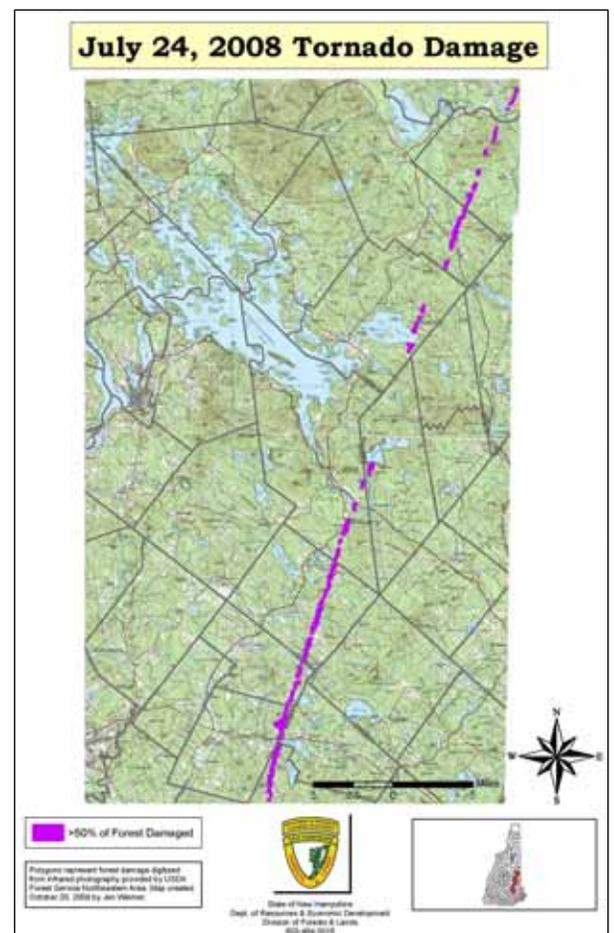
In an effort to determine community natural resource needs on a statewide basis, the CFAC conducted a community needs assessment survey. Surveys were mailed to road agents, parks and recreation departments, conservation commissions, and community leaders around the State. In addition to the initial mailing, reminder postcards were mailed to towns. They included a Web site to complete the survey online (<http://extension.unh.edu/CNASurvey.htm>). At the time of this report, 88 towns have responded. This represents more than 30 percent of the towns in New Hampshire, and we were able to obtain updated information on several towns that were not participating in our statewide programs. Survey data will be reviewed this winter, and educational programs and technical assistance will be provided to help promote the care and maintenance of community trees.

### Tornado Response

On July 24, 2008, an F2/F3 tornado touched down in Deerfield and started a 50-mile path of destruction northeast to Ossipee, NH. After the storm had passed, the DFL and UNH Cooperative Extension participated in the State response. The DFL provided an immediate response by sending a road-clearing crew to the damaged areas while UNH Cooperative Extension provided educational sessions in the hardest hit areas. Information on safe cleanup of storm-damaged trees is available at <http://extension.unh.edu/Forestry/StormDamageInfo.htm>. The combined response of the DFL and UNH Cooperative Extension staff is an example of our long-working partnership to serve the citizens of New Hampshire.



This photograph depicts damage that resulted from a tornado that touched down on July 24, 2008, in New Hampshire.



A topographic map illustrates the destructive path of a tornado that touched down on July 24, 2008, in New Hampshire.