

2008 Accomplishment Report – Ohio

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Introduction

Ohio's Urban Forestry Program, created in 1979, is a state-supported service of the Ohio Department of Natural Resources (ODNR), providing organizational and technical urban forestry assistance primarily to community officials and allied agencies. A statewide network of regional urban foresters helps communities manage their urban forest resources to meet local needs. Six regional urban foresters, through one-on-one assistance, encourage, enhance, and/or expand local tree care programs within participating communities. Through technical knowledge, the urban foresters convey the benefits of a safe, healthy, and functional urban forest resource to community leaders. Using organizational skills, they demonstrate how to effectively provide these benefits by properly managing the urban forest resource.

Key Accomplishments

Tree City USA

For the 27th consecutive year, Ohio was the national leader in the number of Tree City USA communities. Ohio's 249 designated Tree City USA cities and villages demonstrate a continuing commitment to enhancing the quality of life through the proper management of their urban forest resources.

Significant Community Projects

In addition to the normal assistance provided to their client communities, the regional urban foresters are also preparing communities for and helping them deal with emerald ash borer (EAB) infestations. To date, 43 of Ohio's 88 counties have positive EAB finds. The regional urban foresters are using each new find to shift communities from EAB apathy to EAB action. Our primary focus has been to encourage communities to develop and implement EAB Management Plans. When completed these are posted online at <http://www.ohiodnr.com/Home/eab/management/tabid/5073/Default.aspx>.

To help communities appreciate and plan for the economic burden they face from an EAB infestation, the regional urban foresters are helping them conduct ash street tree inventories. In an effort to make data collection efficient, effective, and uniform, the regional urban foresters are using U.S. Forest Service software (i-TREE) and handheld recorders to collect data on these rights-of-way ash trees. Communities are sharing their surveys with ODNR for statewide analysis. Communities with completed EAB Management Plans are Bowling Green, Canal Winchester, Cincinnati, Clearcreek Township (Warren County), Columbia Township, Columbus, Edgerton, Fairfield, Glendale, Granville, Grove City, Indian Hill, Kettering, Lebanon, Marietta, Middletown, Milford, Sandusky, Shaker Heights, Springboro, Springfield, Strongsville, Terrace Park, Tipp City, Toledo, Troy, Upper Arlington, Vandalia, Washington Court House, West Carrollton, Westerville, Whitehouse, Williamsburg, and Wyoming.

Implementing the urban forestry component of a U.S. Forest Service Invasive Plant Species (redesign competition) grant has added a new dimension to our program. Phase 1 of this effort is assessing the invasive plant awareness, knowledge, and attitude of municipal administrators within the target region to determine a learning baseline and possible activities.

Statistical Highlights

Population Percent Living in Managing Communities:	40.39
Population Percent Living in Developing Communities:	41.19
People Living in Assisted Communities:	5,612,971
People Living in Developing Communities:	2,833,772
People Living in Managing Communities:	2,779,199
Communities with Management Plans:	81
Communities with Professional Staff:	108
Communities with Ordinances or Policies:	349
Communities with Local Advocacy/Advisory Organizations:	316
Number of Volunteer Service Hours:	54,424
Tree City USA Communities:	249
Tree City Growth Awards:	43
Tree Line USA Awards:	5



An urban wood utilization workshop was held in Cincinnati.