

# 2009 Accomplishment Report – Delaware

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## Introduction

The Delaware Forest Service's Urban & Community Forestry (U&CF) Program provides technical, educational, and financial assistance to cities, towns, homeowners, and nonprofit organizations to maximize the benefits of our natural resources. In addition to their scenic beauty, these forest resources help moderate our climate, improve air and water quality, conserve energy, and reduce stormwater runoff. The Delaware U&CF program provided a total of 362 community assists during FY09.

As a component of the U&CF Program, the Delaware Forest Service offers grants to municipalities, educators, nonprofit organizations, and government agencies for tree planting and tree management projects on public lands. Since the program's inception in 1991, the Delaware Forest Service has awarded over \$1.5 million in grants to over 100 organizations to improve their urban forest resources. The Delaware Forest Service U&CF program awarded over \$85,000 in grant funds to 30 communities in FY09.

## Key Accomplishments

### Preparing for Storms in Wilmington

The Delaware Forest Service U&CF program partnered with the Delaware Center for Horticulture and the Mid-Atlantic Center for Urban and Community Forestry to train city of Wilmington workers how to use the Storm Damage Assessment Protocol. The 1-day workshop was held May 22, 2009, and attended by 30 various stakeholders within the city including representatives from Public Works, Parks, and Emergency Management. Speakers from Delmarva Power, the U.S. Forest Service, and the Delaware Forest Service presented topics including reliable power delivery, FEMA 325 Debris Management Guidelines, the Storm Damage Protocol, and Risk Tree Management. The city of Wilmington will utilize the training to complete a prestorm evaluation to plan for the worst case scenario in case a major storm strikes.



Donna Murphy explains the storm damage assessment process.

## Middletown Makes Major Tree Canopy Effort

The Town of Middletown has seen rapid growth in recent years. A recent study done by the Delaware Forest Service indicates that the current tree canopy within the Town is 8 percent. Recent downtown renovation projects include installing new tree pits along Main Street. This is a significant upgrade as several trees were creating a hazard along the sidewalk.

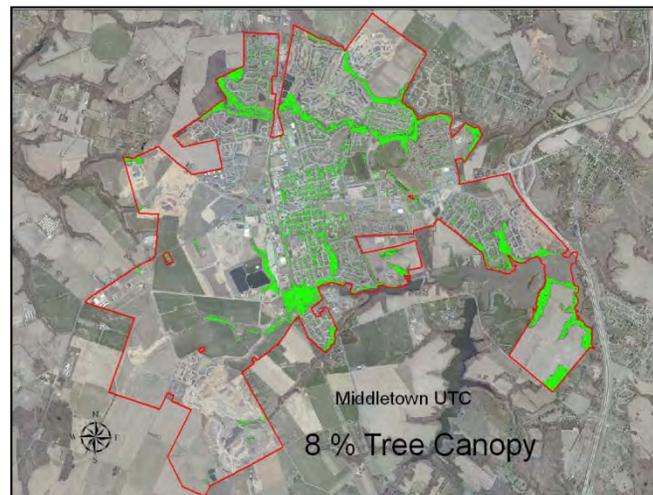
In addition to the downtown renovation, the Town recently created the Levels Road Park. The park includes a fenced-in dog park complete with fake fire hydrants, seven pavilions, a playground, a fishing pond, and 1,000 trees. The park tree planting project serves as a match to a recent grant to increase tree canopy.



Young trees line the roadways in Middletown's newly created Levels Road Park.

## Urban Forestry Planning Tools Nearing Completion

The Delaware Forest Service has recently completed phase one of a GIS project to develop a municipal tree canopy layer. As part of a U.S. Forest Service Redesign grant awarded in 2008, the new tree canopy layer will be used to assist communities throughout the State of Delaware better plan and manage their urban forest resources. In addition to the tree canopy layer, a wildland fire hazard GIS layer is nearing completion as well. The intent is to use the two layers to better assess threats to the wildland-urban interface throughout the State.



This preliminary map shows the location of Middletown's tree canopy.