

2009 Accomplishment Report – Michigan

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Introduction

Michigan's 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 FY09, this assistance, made possible through the U.S. Forest Service, reached nearly 5 million people living in participating communities throughout the State.

This year, the State UCF program began the process of updating its strategic plan and integrating priority issues into the statewide forest resource and assessment effort. Additionally, a significant amount of time has been focused on new opportunities related to federally funded initiatives, including U.S. Forest Service-awarded "Redesign" projects, the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, congressionally directed projects, and the Great Lakes Restoration.

Key Accomplishments

Highlighted Project

Title: Village of Breckenridge – An example of successful small community urban forestry

Location: Breckenridge, MI

The Village of Breckenridge is typical of many small communities throughout the State. It is the fourth largest community in agriculturally based Gratiot County, located in central Michigan. With a population of 1,300 and land area of 1.1 square miles, the village is small in both size and character. However, it more than makes up for that in its commitment to managing its trees.

DNR UCF technical assistance to the community began in 2006 with a site visit to investigate a possible emerald ash borer infestation. From that initial visit, the village was put in touch with the nonprofit organization **Global ReLeaf of Michigan** for followup assistance on redrafting a tree ordinance and working towards Tree City USA designation. The following year (2007) saw a change in administration and slow progress towards these goals. In 2008, however, interest was renewed by a citizen volunteer who also happens to be a utility arborist with **Consumers Energy**. A small grant was provided by the DNR's UCF program to facilitate completion of the community's tree ordinance, again in cooperation with Global ReLeaf of Michigan.



The State UCF Coordinator presents the 1st Tree City USA Award to the Village of Breckenridge on April 9, 2009, during an awards ceremony in Okemos, MI.

Through further DNR UCF assistance and grass roots interest and action, the village was also able to achieve the following during 2008 (FY09):

- organize an official tree advisory board
- conduct a community-wide tree inventory and maintenance plan
- celebrate Arbor Day
- obtain ISA certification for staff (both Certified Arborist and Utility Specialist)
- obtained a tree planting grant from the local utility (Consumers Energy) tree program
- indicate an annual tree planting program
- create a tree fund donation program
- achieve Tree City USA designation
- received the “Governmental Excellence in Urban Forestry” award from DNR and MUCFC in partnership with the Arboriculture Society of Michigan

Partnership and Awareness

The DNR UCF program and **Global ReLeaf of Michigan** (GRM) have maintained an ongoing partnership, via grant funding, to provide urban forestry assistance to communities aggregated by watersheds. In 2008, GRM added to the existing watershed assistance program in the Saginaw Bay area by initiating work in the Grand Traverse Bay (GTB) watershed of northwest Lower Michigan. Impacts have been immediate, highlighting the success of this model of assistance and reinforcing the need for continued partnership.

This year, through GRM’s efforts to engage and facilitate networking of communities in the GTB, several communities (**Kingsley, Suttons Bay, etc.**) have initiated tree ordinances, begun tree planting projects, and sent staff to training and related meetings. Additionally, the local watershed nonprofit **Watershed Center for Grand Traverse Bay** has submitted a collaborative proposal to the DNR UCF program to contract a watershed-wide, green infrastructure and CITYgreen analysis.

As a result of this continued partnership between the DNR and GRM, there is a growing awareness of and interest in managing the green resources of the Grand Traverse Bay.

Tree City/Line/Campus USA

Communities, utilities, and campuses continue to increase participation in the Arbor Day Foundation’s Tree USA programs. All but three communities recertified from the previous year. Four new communities (**Breckenridge, Clare, Dexter, and Sparta**) were added to the growing ranks of Michigan’s 119 Tree Cities, 4 utilities, and 2 campuses this year. Additionally, 14 communities were honored with the Growth Award status.

Statistical Highlights

Managing and Developing Communities:	188
Population of Participating Communities:	4,932,141
Volunteer Assistance Generated (hours):	4,442

CARS



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Michigan FY2009 Summary

Category	Measure	Result
OUTCOMES		
1.	Percent of population living in communities managing programs to plant, protect and maintain their urban and community trees and forests.	39.28%
2.	Percent of population living in communities developing programs and/or activities to plant, protect and maintain their urban and community trees and forests.	30.90%
OUTPUTS		
1.	Number of people living in communities provided educational, technical and/or financial assistance .	4,932,141
2.	Number of people living in communities that are developing programs/activities for their urban and community trees and forests.	2,171,329
3.	Number of people living in communities managing their urban and community trees and forests	2,760,812
4.	Number of communities with active urban & community tree and forest management plans developed from professionally-based resource assessments/inventories	95
5.	Number of communities that employ or retain through written agreement the services of professional forestry staff who have at least one of these credentials: (1) degree in forestry or related field and (2) ISA certified arborist or equivalent professional certification	105
6.	Number of communities that have adopted and can present documentation of local/statewide ordinances or policies that focus on planting, protecting, and maintaining their urban and community trees and forests	271
7.	Number of communities with local advocacy/ advisory organizations , such as, active tree boards, commissions, or non-profit organizations that are formalized or chartered to advise and/or advocate for the planting, protection, and maintenance of urban and community trees and forests	174
8.	Number of hours of volunteer service logged. (An agency-wide consistent methodology to be developed to track volunteer hours)	4,442
9.	State offered community grant program in current fiscal year	Yes
10.	Number of communities receiving financial assistance awarded during the Federal FY 2009 through a state managed community grant program	110
11.	Amount of Federal (USFS) funding to States	279,108
DEMANDS		
1.	Number of people living in communities that have the potential to develop management programs for their trees and forests with assistance from UCF technical, financial and/or educational program services.	7,027,887
2.	Number of people living in communities not managing, or developing programs to manage, their urban and community trees and forests.	2,095,746
EFFICIENCY		
1.	Federal (USFS) dollar cost or expenditure per capita in community assisted.	\$ 0.06

Status

In Progress