

2009 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 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, A.J. Dupere, manages the Urban Forestry Center and Shieling Forest, and provides technical assistance to communities. A Community Forestry Volunteer Coordinator, Mary Tebo Davis, is employed by the University of New Hampshire (UNH) Cooperative Extension to implement the statewide Natural Resources 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. Additional technical assistance is provided to communities by Mary Reynolds, Certified Arborist with the Division of Forests and Lands. The Community Forestry Advisory Council, consisting of 16 members from organizations including UNH Cooperative Extension, New Hampshire Division of Forests and Lands, U.S. Forest Service, Department of Transportation, public utilities, arborists, and landscapers, provides leadership and direction for the statewide program.

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 hundreds 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 is a partnership between UNH Cooperative Extension, the Division of Forests and Lands, New Hampshire Department of Fish and Game, Natural Resources Conservation Service, and County Conservation Districts. 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 2009, over 100 people volunteered 9,000 hours assisting New Hampshire communities by serving on land protection boards, working on landscape projects, and conducting tree inventories. Mary Tebo Davis, Community Volunteer Coordinator, leads this successful program in the Concord/Manchester/Nashua area, assisted by A.J. Dupere, Community Forester, in seacoast communities.

Key Accomplishments

Funding and Organization

Funding and organizational changes within the Division of Forests and Lands have been beneficial to our Urban and Community Forestry program. Funding for the Urban Forestry Coordinator's position was previously dependent on funds from the U.S. Forest Service, and now this position is funded by the State from the John Elwyn Stone Trust. The funding from the U.S. Forest Service is being redirected to additional community outreach and education.

The position held by Mary Reynolds and the Urban Forestry Coordinator position held by A.J. Dupere were moved into the same bureau within the Division of Forests and Lands. They both now work within the Planning and Community Forestry Bureau. This transition will provide for better coordination and communication on projects and should increase the success of our program.

Community Needs Assessment Survey

Last year the Community Forestry Advisory Council conducted a statewide Community Needs Assessment Survey. The survey results were reviewed at the last Community Forestry Advisory Council meeting and ways to meet communities' needs for Web-based information were discussed. Council members would like to have a Web site where communities and citizens could access community forestry information.

Tree Planting in Tornado-Damaged Communities

Northwood, NH, was one of the towns that suffered significant tree damage during the tornado of July 2008. As a way to encourage tree planting in affected communities, the Division of Forests and Lands, in partnership with the New Hampshire Arborists Association, planted a sugar maple tree on community land near the Northwood ride-share parking lot. Several community members were on hand to help choose the location. This new tree will eventually replace some of the declining trees in the area and will provide shade to the Northwood Farmer's Market. A tree was also planted in Barnstead, NH, near the town center to encourage planting in that community. The trees were donated by the New Hampshire Arborists Association, and additional trees will be available in the spring of 2010.

Tour des Trees

The Program assisted with the 2009 Stihl Tour des Trees event in the State this year. Riders took part in a memorial tree planting event at the U.S. Forest Service building in Durham, NH. A red oak tree was planted in memory of Dr. Alex Shigo, a U.S. Forest Service researcher, whose work in the areas of tree decay and tree health transformed the field of arboriculture. Jeffrey Carney, Arborist with National Grid and a member of the New Hampshire Community Forestry Advisory Council, was a rider and spoke on the importance of community forestry in the urban landscape. A.J. Dupere, Community Forester, and members of the Council worked with John Parry to organize this event. Many U.S. Forest Service staff and community members were on hand to greet and cheer the riders on.

Statistical Highlights:

Managing and Developing Communities:	157
Population of Participating Communities:	1,100,857
Volunteer Assistance Generated (hours):	9,748



New Hampshire State Coordinator A.J. Dupere, New Hampshire Arborist Association Officers, and Tour des Trees Riders plant a tree in memory of Dr. Alex Shigo.