

2009 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 28th 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, 52 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>.



The Ohio Division of Forestry has created a Tree Commission Academy (TCA) to provide formal training for the volunteer positions in Tree Commissions throughout Ohio's communities. TCA is a training/educational delivery method based on a series of four educational classes or "grade levels" that will help Tree Commission volunteers understand the basics of urban forestry and their role in the public management of the resources.



Tree Commission Academy Freshman Class

Implementing the urban forestry component of the approved Redesign Competitive Invasive Plant Species grant has added a new dimension to our program. Assessing the invasive plant awareness, knowledge, and attitude of municipal administrators within the target region, to determine a learning baseline and possible activities, is Phase One of this effort. Three primary activities have been designed to address the barriers that administrator's have in regard to invasive plant policies. These activities include Community Invasive Plant Assessments, Invasive Plant Demonstration Sites, and Weed of the Month factsheets.

Statistical Highlights

Population Percent Living in Managing Communities:	42.74
Population Percent Living in Developing Communities:	40.90
People Living in Assisted Communities:	5,847,436
People Living in Developing Communities:	2,859,492
People Living in Managing Communities:	2,987,944
Communities with Management Plans:	108
Communities with Professional Staff:	116
Communities with Ordinances or Policies:	361
Communities with Local Advocacy/Advisory Organizations:	322
Number of Volunteer Service Hours:	54,074
Tree City USA Communities:	249
Tree City Growth Awards:	34
Tree Line USA Awards:	6
Tree Campus USA Awards:	1