

2009 Accomplishment Report – Rhode Island

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Introduction

A key goal of the Rhode Island Urban and Community Forestry (UCF) Program is to restore and maintain the State's green infrastructure. The program encourages cities and towns to develop a UCF plan and to incorporate this into their city or town comprehensive plan. Program staff maintains strong partnerships with community tree groups, the Rhode Island Tree Council (RITree), and other municipal and State partners by promoting tree planting, tree inventories, and urban forestry educational events. The Rhode Island Division of Environmental Management (RI DEM) is building a UCF constituency through alliances with the nonprofit RITree, city and town tree societies and communities, an army of tree stewards, and a well-informed Rhode Island legislature and executive branch.

Key Accomplishments

Tribute to 100 Years of Service

This year's Rhode Island State Arbor Day was celebrated on Friday, April 24, 2009, in conjunction with Rhode Island Parks' 100th Anniversary at Lincoln Woods, Rhode Island's first State Park. Lincoln Woods State Park is also home of what is believed to be the first scientific and carefully recorded silvicultural experiments in the United States. In 1820, the prominent Rhode Island textile manufacturer Zachariah Allen planted oak and chestnut trees and maintained extensive records over the next 57 years that documented the 40-acre site's profitability. Staff at Lincoln Woods State Park and the Rhode Island Division of Forest Environment coordinated the event that included a speaking program from local dignitaries, volunteers dressed in period attire, and over 80 students from the Town of Lincoln School District. A red oak, donated by the Rhode Island Tree Council (RITree), was planted as a living memorial to the next century of service to the citizens of Rhode Island.



The Rhode Island State Arbor Day Ceremony was held in conjunction with Rhode Island Parks' 100th Anniversary at Lincoln Woods, Rhode Island's first State Park, and home to the first documented silvicultural experiments in the United States.

New Trees for a Community in Need

The following day, RITree held its 2nd Annual Arbor Day Fair: *New Trees for a Community in Need* at Roger Williams Park in Providence. The east entrance to the park was chosen as the site for this tree planting initiative because it has one of the lowest existing urban tree canopies in the city. This daylong event included climbing, pruning, and planting demonstrations from Rhode Island arborists, and the planting of 81 trees by over 130 Tree Stewards, volunteers, and their friends and families.



Rhode Island arborists demonstrate proper planting techniques.



Eighty-one trees were added to Roger Williams Park's tree canopy.



Over 130 Tree Stewards, volunteers, and their families attended.

Community Projects

Warwick - Greenwich Avenue's streetscape was suffering from a severe lack of trees due to removals of dead and declining Norway maples, an intersection reconfiguration, and the installation of a new water main. In order to assist in traffic calming and stormwater runoff absorption, deciduous trees were planted as part of their Bring Back the Boulevards initiative. Additionally, 60 new bare-root trees were procured to replenish stock at their City Tree Farm, a pot-in-pot operation that has helped increase the urban tree canopy at low-income housing projects, schools, and public parks throughout the city.



Twenty trees were planted in Warwick to help with stormwater absorption.



Warwick's City Tree Farm

Newport - The Neighborhood Cooperative Tree Planting Program is based on the idea that when residents contribute to the cost of a tree planting initiative, a sense of ownership in the project is achieved, which often results in higher quality care for new trees. The city covers all costs for installation and maintenance incurred over and beyond the resident sponsorship fee. Quality shade trees are planted as a result that are congruent with the species composition goals of Newport's community forest and are placed strategically to reap their full benefits.



Newport's community forest plantings are congruent with their species composition goals and enjoy favorable survival rates.



This grove of birches at Rogers High School helps reduce energy use for air conditioning.

Statistical Highlights

Number of Communities:	40
Communities Assisted:	30
Managing Communities:	17
Tree City USA:	11
Volunteer Hours:	6,105