

Urban and Community Forestry Program

2010 Accomplishment Report – District of Columbia

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Introduction

Within the government of the District of Columbia, the Urban Forestry Administration (UFA) is the agency responsible for urban street trees. The UFA's duties include planting, pruning, removing, and maintaining the health of the District of Columbia's street tree canopy. The UFA is one of five administrations in the District Department of Transportation (DDOT). Its areas of concern are enhancing the city's urban tree canopy, particularly on District properties; assessing the invasive species and health status of street trees and other trees in the District; and increasing participation by residents in community outreach activities in urban forestry.

The UFA continues to extend its reach into serving other sectors of the District's government and community members. As of October 2010, there are 19 International Society of Arboriculture (ISA) certified urban foresters on staff, including 3 municipal arborists, 1 utility arborist, and 1 landscape architect. Staff completed the ISA Tree Risk Assessment Course and Exam this year.

Key Accomplishments

CanopyKeepers Program

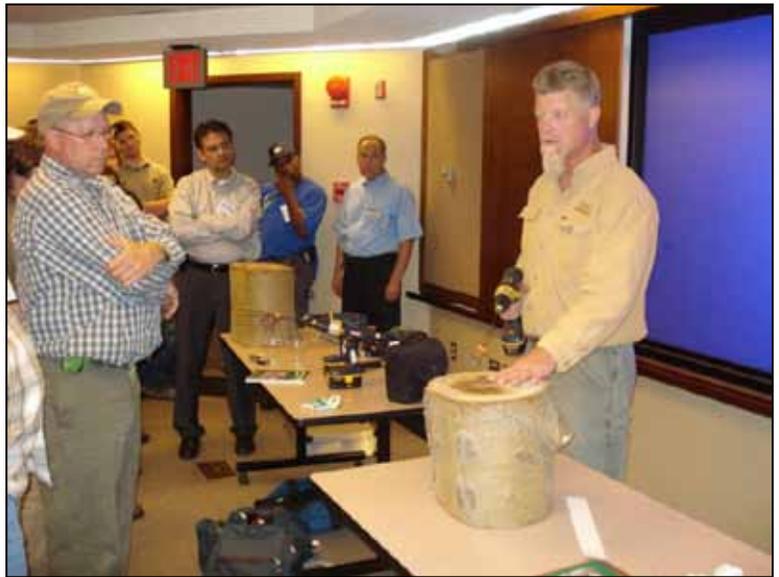
The Urban Forestry Administration revamped its tree adoption and tree care program, renaming it CanopyKeepers. With targeted outreach to residents and businesses in each ward, Business Improvement District (BID), and Main Street program, the number of trees adopted increased to 1,024. Adoptees who agree to water, weed, mulch, and report damage or service needs receive, in return, a free watering device (either an ooze tube or a tub) to put around young trees as they establish in their first 2 years. In addition to improved city-wide tree maintenance and survival of young trees, the revamped CanopyKeepers program established a mechanism to foster long-term working relationships with stakeholders and provide them with scientifically sound seasonal information about tree care needs. The program has also provided the UFA with a means of tracking participants and young trees that can be updated.



A newly planted tree has a watering tub.

Testing Trees for Decay: Wood Decay Fungi Workshop

Partnering with the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments, the UFA sponsored a workshop that covered the topics of tree care and disease and decay assessment of urban trees. Dr. Chris Luley of Urban Forestry Associates, LLC, was the instructor. The training program was designed to provide attendees with the knowledge and hands-on skills to assess wood decay symptoms and signs in urban trees. Both classroom presentations and field exercises provided participants the opportunity to practice the concepts and techniques presented and to evaluate the extent of wood decay on nearby urban trees. Participants also learned the basics of fungi identification and urban tree decay management.



Dr. Chris Luley instructs participants at the Testing Trees for Decay workshop.

September 11th Day of Service

On Saturday, September 11, 2010, the Urban Forestry Administration partnered with Serve DC, the Mayor's Office on Volunteerism, for a volunteer event that began at the Deanwood Recreation Center and encompassed Deanwood, the surrounding Northeast neighborhood. The 9/11 National Day of Service memorializes the events that occurred on September 11, 2001, and recognizes those who have dedicated their lives in service to this country. UFA staff worked with 80 volunteers to plant 22 street trees and remove debris from military veterans' homes in the Deanwood neighborhood. Volunteers were recruited from the United States Department of Homeland Security, the Senior Corps, and the District of Columbia Office on Aging. The new street trees included redbuds that were planted under wires and Chinese elms that were planted in larger open areas. Other activities included a clothing drive and job fair specifically for veterans.



Volunteers participate in the District of Columbia National Day of Service.

Statistical Highlights

Managing and Developing Communities:	1
Population of Participating Communities:	572,059
Volunteer Assistance Generated (hours):	20,878