

Urban and Community Forestry Program 2010 Accomplishment Report – Delaware

State Contact

Henry Poole
Urban and Community Forestry Coordinator
Delaware Forest Service
502 Blackbird Forest Road
Smyrna, DE 19977
Phone: 302-943-3593
Fax: 302-653-2869
E-mail: henry.poole@state.de.us
Web site:
<http://www.state.de.us/deptagri/forestry/conser.s.html#Urban>

State Forester

Michael A. Valenti
Delaware Department of Agriculture
2320 South Dupont Highway
Dover, DE 19901
Phone: 302-698-4550
Fax: 302-697-6287
E-mail: michael.valenti@state.de.us

Introduction

The Delaware Forest Service's Urban & Community Forestry (U&CF) Program provides technical, educational, and financial assistance to cities, towns, homeowners, and nonprofit organizations to maximize the benefits of our natural resources. In addition to their scenic beauty, these forest resources help moderate our climate, improve air and water quality, conserve energy, and reduce stormwater runoff.

As a component of the U&CF Program, the Delaware Forest Service offers grants to municipalities, educators, nonprofit organizations, and government agencies for tree planting and tree management projects on public lands. Since the program's inception in 1991, the Delaware Forest Service has awarded over \$1.5 million in grants to over 100 organizations to improve their urban forest resources. The Delaware Forest Service U&CF program awarded over \$77,500 in grant funds to 30 communities in FY10.

Key Accomplishments

The Delaware U&CF staff (2 FTE's) provided a total of 418 community assists during FY10. These assists included development reviews for State, county, and municipal governments; grant assistance; tree care advice for community decisionmakers; tree inventories; and urban forestry planning. In FY10, Delaware had 32 communities that met the four criteria of a managing community and 25 communities that met the criteria of a developing community. The Delaware U&CF program logged 1,791.35 volunteer hours in FY10. These hours are valued at \$45,636.75.

Delaware Tree Inventory Database

In FY10, the Delaware Forest Service (DFS) realized the need to centralize information collected in tree inventories throughout the State. Currently, the DFS is working with six communities to develop urban forestry management plans. As part of that effort, the DFS provided assistance with tree inventories utilizing i-Tree software. Currently, six communities have been completed with three more planned in the near future. Once completed, the database will be used to track the health, age, and benefits of the urban forest on a statewide basis.

Town of Laurel Plans for Canopy

As part of a 2008 U.S. Forest Service Competitive Grant, the Delaware Forest Service recently completed urban tree canopy maps for each of Delaware’s 57 municipalities. The purpose of the map series was to aid local governments in the planning process.

The Town of Laurel, located in the Chesapeake Bay watershed, has been working with the Office of State Planning to incorporate urban tree management into the Town’s 2010 Comprehensive Plan update. Currently, the total urban tree canopy in the Town of Laurel is 20.4 percent. The Town of Laurel Comprehensive Plan conveys its significance within the larger Chesapeake Bay watershed:

“This effort to improve the Chesapeake Bay watershed calls for multiple efforts to protect this valuable resource. One such effort is for communities to adopt a local goal to *increase* tree canopy...”

The Town of Laurel has set a lofty goal of increasing tree canopy by 10 percent over the next 10 years. The Delaware Forest Service looks forward to partnering with the Town in this endeavor because they are in a high-priority area as designated in the Delaware State Assessment.

