

Urban and Community Forestry Program 2010 Accomplishment Report – New Jersey

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Introduction

The New Jersey Community Forestry Program is a unique partnership between government, business, and volunteers caring for trees where people live, work, and play. Under the authority provided by the State legislature within the Community Forestry Assistance Act (P.L. 1996, Chapter 135), the program encourages, promotes, and assists cities and towns in the establishment, retention, and enhancement of trees and forest resources. The Community Forestry Program is dedicated to making communities more livable by providing grants, technical assistance, training, and volunteer opportunities. The program continues to seek leading edge opportunities and innovative initiatives to build a sustainable statewide effort to manage local, publicly owned trees and forest. Through the use of Federal urban and community forestry funding, the goal of having a statewide community forestry initiative is ensuing.

Key Accomplishments

New Jersey’s State Community Forestry Program has reached a key and important milestone. With the support of Federal Urban and Community Forestry (UCF) funds, the State has eclipsed the 50 percent mark in the number of communities having or working on a Community Forestry Management Plan. The significance of reaching this number is that it will permit the program to market and advertise the fact that more communities will be covered by the Community Forestry Assistance Act than not. This milestone will aid the New Jersey Community Forestry Council with the marketing of the program to the legislature and to towns and cities not yet participating in the program.

Each year, the New Jersey Community Forestry Program seeks feedback from its participating municipalities. This feedback is in the form of an annual accomplishment report, required under the New Jersey Community Forestry Assistance Act and supported by Federal urban and community forestry funding. This year, instead of giving individual accomplishments of projects, New Jersey has decided to use the findings of its analysis of the municipal reports as its highlights. The result will show urban and community forestry activities statewide with an incredible accomplishment by cities and towns, all with the help of the New Jersey and Federal programs. New Jersey’s program, with the assistance of the Federal Urban and Community Forestry Program, has built an enduring and wide-reaching program that meets the mandates of both the State of New Jersey and the Federal government. The overall accomplishments of our municipal governments are directly related to the support and assistance provided by the New Jersey Community Forestry Program and the Federal Urban and Community Forestry Program.

Introduction

The following information has been compiled from all of the annual accomplishment reports (AARs) of 2009-2010 submitted by municipalities. One hundred ninety-five annual accomplishments reports were submitted and reviewed. Outlines were made for each accomplishment report looking at 15 criteria areas—municipality, monetary, contact, number of people on board, training, training interests, Arbor Day events, outreach, outreach ideas, budget, Community Forestry Management Plan accomplishments, Community Forestry Management Plan unattained goals and objectives, grants applied for, and municipality plans to apply for grants in the future. Out of these 15 criteria areas, 7 of them were sorted through and used to compile statistics—training, Arbor Day celebration activities, outreach, budget, Community Forestry Management Plan accomplishments, Community Forestry Management Plan unattained goals and objectives, and grants applied for. After the criteria were sorted through and compiled, certain trends were discovered about the 195 municipalities that submitted AARs.

Training

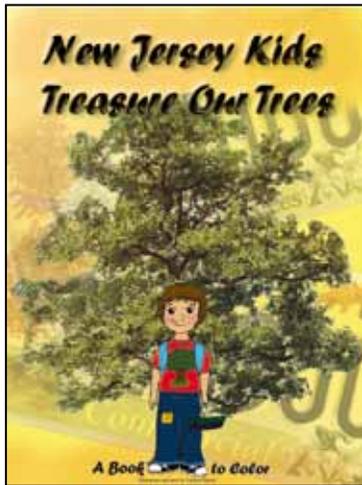
The most attended training was the Shade Federation Meeting, or Core, attended by **149** municipalities. The second most popular training was chainsaw safety, which was attended by **13** municipalities. Some other training that was attended is as follows: Hazardous Tree Identification (11), Bartlett Seminar (7), Tree Planting Training by Rutgers (6), Pesticide Safety (6), Tree Identification (5), Tree Inventory Training (4), and Pruning Training (4). Altogether there were **63 different types** of training compiled ranging from 149 to 1 participating municipalities.



Several storms damaged trees, vehicles, homes, and properties in New Jersey in 2010.

Arbor Day Celebration Activities

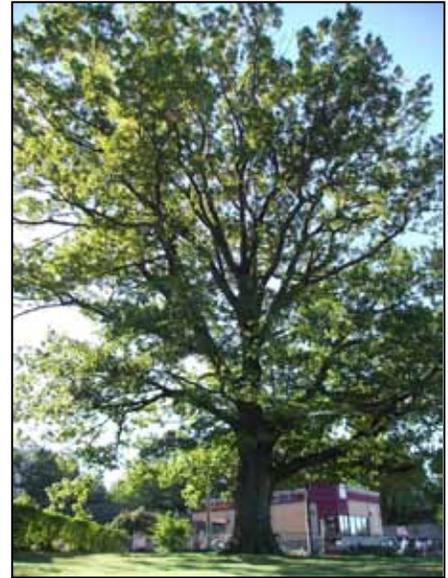
The most popular activity was tree plantings in which **87** municipalities took part. Another popular activity was handing out tree seedlings, which **27** municipalities performed. Some other Arbor Day activities included a poster contest (9), poetry contest (8), booth at festival (4), flyers (3), and photo contest (2). A highlight from the AARs was Chesterfield in Burlington County, which had a Big Tree contest for Arbor Day. The winners were based on the largest tree and additions of new species to their Big Tree list. There were 30 different activities compiled ranging from 87 to 1 participating municipalities.



Cover of New Jersey's coloring book for kids.

Outreach

The most popular form of outreach was newsletters with 45 municipalities reporting this activity. Tree City USA was another popular form as reported by 29 municipalities. Other popular outreach activities were booths at events (25), a Web site (24), and flyers (19). One highlight from the AARs was Gloucester City in Camden County, which not only had a Girl Scouts brownie troop workshop on trees but also handed out seedlings at a community event.



The Big Tree search is up and active with hundreds of new finds, including six national champions.

on the municipality's practices. Some municipalities recorded in-kind services with the volunteer rate and reported it into their budget, while other municipalities did not use any in-kind services calculated into their budget. This means there is a large variance of actual budgets reported from municipalities. The budgets ranged from \$1,607,541 to \$500. The average budget was \$126,998.56 dollars out of the 167 municipalities.

Budget

Out of the 195 municipalities that submitted an AAR, 167 submitted a budget. Please note that budgets were reported differently depending

Community Forestry Management Plan Accomplishments

The top seven accomplishments achieved by the 195 municipalities were as follows: Hazardous Tree Identification (113), Tree Plantings (91), Hazardous Tree Removal (80), Tree Inventory (43), Pruning (37), Work performed on a Community Forestry Management Plan (27), and Tree City USA (27). One interesting accomplishment from Flemington Borough was an Adopt-a-Tree program that Flemington successfully started with the help of Rutgers Nursery.

Community Forestry Management Plan Unattained Goals and Objectives

This area was largely unreported by most municipalities. Out of 195 AARs, there were only 28 unattained goals and objectives in 2009. The two unattained goals and objectives that were reported most often were inventories not performed (5) and lack of money (4). Most municipalities reported that the reason for not completing goals, such as inventories, was from lack of funds, and one municipality ran out of time.

Grants

The last area compiled from the AARs was the grant data. According to the AARs, 132 grants were applied for by the 195 municipalities in 2009-2010. The number of grants that municipalities applied for ranged from three to zero. The Business Stimulus Fund (BSF) Grant was the most applied for with 108 applications and with 86 municipalities being approved. The other grant that was offered by the Community Forest Program was the Green Communities (GC) Grant that had 24 applicants, of which 22 were approved. Two municipalities reported that they received grants from organizations outside of the Community Forestry Program. Phillipsburg in Warren County received a grant from the Delaware River Joint Toll Bridge Commission to improve the Main Street business area with a tree planting. Point Pleasant Beach in Ocean County received a grant from the Elm Research Institute to plant an American elm at its high school.

Statistical Highlights

Number of Participating Communities:	376
Volunteer Assistance Generated (hours):	41,890
Number of Tree City USA Communities:	167
Number of Growth Awards:	18
Number of Managing Communities:	230
Number of Developing Communities:	146
Population of Participating Communities:	6,966,238
Number of Communities with Advocacy/ Advisory Organizations:	406
Number of UCF Grants:	62
Number of Selected Communities for New Jersey:	566 (100%)