

# Urban and Community Forestry Program 2010 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 that provides organizational and technical urban forestry assistance primarily to community officials and allied agencies. A statewide network of urban foresters helps communities manage their urban forest resources to meet local needs. Six regional urban foresters use one-on-one assistance to encourage, enhance, and/or expand local tree care programs within participating communities. Urban foresters use technical knowledge to convey the benefits of a safe, healthy, and functional urban forest resource to community leaders. They use organizational skills to demonstrate how to effectively provide these benefits by properly managing the urban forest resource.

## Key Accomplishments

### Tree City USA

For the 29th consecutive year, Ohio was the national leader in the number of Tree City USA communities. Ohio's 249 designated Tree City USA cities, villages, and townships demonstrate a continuing commitment to enhancing the quality of life through the proper management of their urban forest resources.

### Significant Community Projects

Maintaining the program's long-term core activities remains the best approach in facilitating significant, enduring, and meaningful community projects. As part of the normal assistance provided to their client communities, regional urban foresters continue to prepare communities for and help them deal with emerald ash borer (EAB) infestations. All of Ohio's 88 counties are now part of the statewide EAB quarantine. The regional urban foresters use each new find to move 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 [www.ohiodnr.com/Home/eab/management/tabid/5073/Default.aspx](http://www.ohiodnr.com/Home/eab/management/tabid/5073/Default.aspx).

Implementing the urban forestry component of the congressionally directed EAB project within the Western Lake Erie Basin is proving insightful. In addition to the conventional community pass-through ash tree removal and canopy restoration grants, a unique partnership with a community action agency was formed to assist low-income homeowners with ash removal. Using experience gained from pilot testing this effort in two communities, the project area was expanded to include all homeowners in a four-county

area. This is the first large-scale private sector financial assistance program provided to urban residents to address the costly removal of their ash trees by qualified and professionally trained arborists.

### Statistical Highlights

Population Percent Living in Managing Communities:	45.11
Population Percent Living in Developing Communities:	35.55
People Living in Assisted Communities:	5,822,123
People Living in Developing Communities:	2,566,315
People Living in Managing Communities:	3,255,808
Communities with Management Plans:	140
Communities with Professional Staff:	122
Communities with Ordinances or Policies:	366
Communities with Local Advocacy/Advisory Organizations:	326
Number of Volunteer Service Hours:	48,361
Tree City USA Communities:	249
Tree City Growth Awards:	24
Tree Line USA Awards:	5
Tree Campus USA Awards:	4
Total Number of Community Assists:	791
Total Number of Unique Communities Assisted:	274
Total Number of Assists:	1,063



An ash tree is marked for removal in a low-income neighborhood.