

# Urban and Community Forestry Program 2011 Accomplishment Report – Delaware

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## Introduction

The Delaware Forest Service Urban & Community Forestry (U&CF) Program provides technical and educational assistance to cities, towns, homeowners, and nonprofit organizations and financial assistance to municipal governments 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.

Through 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 150 organizations to improve their urban forest resources. The Delaware Forest Service U&CF Program awarded over \$50,000 in grant funds to 13 communities in FY 2011.

## Key Accomplishments

The Delaware U&CF staff (2 FTEs) provided a total of 447 community assists during FY 2011. 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 FY 2011, Delaware had 35 communities that met the four criteria of a managing community and 28 communities that met the criteria of a developing community. The Delaware U&CF Program logged 2,748.25 volunteer hours in FY 2011. These hours are valued at \$62,879.64.

### 1<sup>st</sup> Annual Delaware Arborist and Tree Worker Seminar

The Delaware Forest Service U&CF Program kicked off its 1<sup>st</sup> Annual Delaware Arborist and Tree Worker Seminar just outside of Dover on April 13 and 14. Day one included presentations from Kerns Brothers, Bartlett Tree, and the Delaware Forest Service on climbing techniques, tree identification, and hazard risk assessment. Day two had presentations from the University of Delaware; Weeds, Inc.; Maryland DNR; and the Delaware Forest Service covering the emerald ash borer, bacterial leaf scorch, thousand cankers disease, common wood borers, and invasive weed control. The 2-day seminar had 120 attendees and offered 6 Delaware pesticide credits, 8 Society of American Foresters credits, and 10 International Society of Arboriculture CEUs.



Mark Ware (white hardhat) from Kerns Brothers discusses climbing techniques.



Mark Ware (white hardhat) demonstrates how modern equipment saves time.



Attendees watch as Kerns Brothers demonstrates proper climbing/rigging knots.

### **Delaware U&CF Program Launches TREE-riffic**

For FY 2011, The Delaware Forest Service took on the task of helping educate children about the benefits of trees and natural resources. Through our new program, new schools will enter a competitive cycle that will allow them to apply to become a TREE-riffic program based on, but not limited to, the following criteria: having an Arbor Day celebration, tree-based curriculum, schoolyard canopy goal, and maintenance schedule for existing trees.

In FY 2011, Blades Elementary became Delaware's first TREE-riffic school. They are located within the Town of Blades' municipal boundaries, the Chesapeake Bay watershed, and a targeted community for the Delaware Forest Service's urban tree canopy study. In honor of Blades Elementary becoming the first TREE-riffic school, the Delaware Forest Service has partnered with the town and school to hold a tree planting event where 30 trees will be planted on school grounds by the children.



Brian O'Neal from Weeds Inc. speaks about how to manage invasive species.

### **Municipalities in Delaware Set Tree Canopy Goals**

The Delaware Forest Service worked with several municipalities on setting urban tree canopy goals over the past year. For FY 2011, the U&CF Program built into its grant program the requirement that all municipalities seeking potential funding need to work with the Delaware Forest Service to set a tree canopy goal within their community. This has enabled the Delaware Forest Service to implement seven new urban tree canopy goals to date with another five that will be passed by late 2011.

Rehoboth Beach was one of the first to set an official goal with the Delaware Forest Service. The city and the Delaware Forest Service began with the planting of 160 balled and burlapped trees with an average caliper measurement of 2-3 inches. Twenty different species were selected for planting around the city, which helped residents understand why tree canopy is beneficial and important. The Delaware Forest Service and the city of Rehoboth Beach partnered with Rehoboth Elementary to celebrate Arbor Day, speak about why tree canopy is important, and help plant eight trees on the school's property with students.



Newly planted trees grace Scarborough Avenue in Rehoboth Beach.



The city of Rehoboth Beach celebrated Arbor Day with Rehoboth Elementary School students.

This work supports the strategic direction and objectives for urban forestry in Delaware as described in the State Forest Strategy, Criterion 6, including increasing urban tree canopy and the number of community forests that are managed.