

# Urban and Community Forestry Program 2011 Accomplishment Report – Michigan

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## Introduction

Michigan’s Urban and Community Forestry (UCF) program is administered with 1 full-time equivalent working to promote management of urban forest resources through technical, educational, and financial assistance. During FY11, this assistance, made possible through the U.S. Department of Agriculture Forest Service, reached nearly 5 million people living in participating communities throughout the State.

2010 U.S. Census figures show that Michigan was the only State to experience a net population decline in the past decade. State population declined by 6 percent (55,000) to 9.8 million. **Detroit**, Michigan’s largest city with a population of 713,000, saw a decline of 25 percent (240,000). Both the **Grand Rapids** and **Traverse City** regions experienced the greatest growth at 6 percent each. The implications of this change for urban forest management relate to shrinking municipal tax bases, subsequent funding reductions, and diminished public service for tree care management.

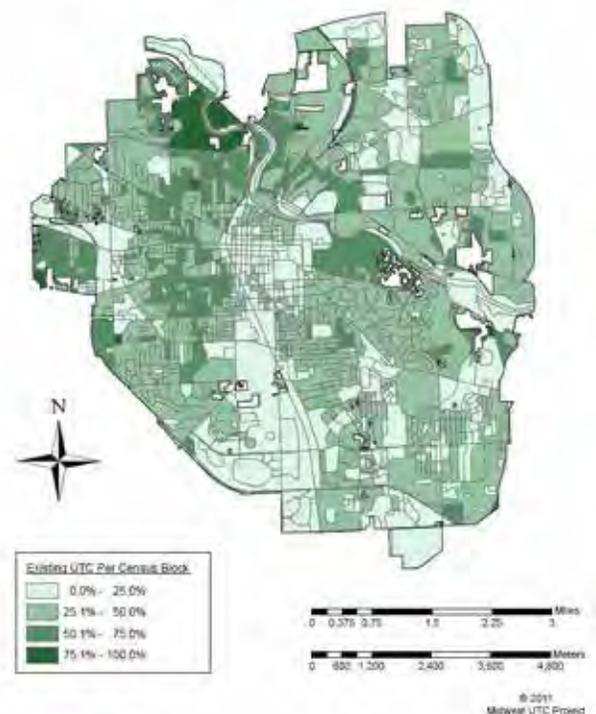
## Key Accomplishments

### Strengthening Municipal Forestry Programs in Southeastern Michigan

As communities in this part of the State continue to recover from the devastation of the emerald ash borer (EAB), there is a renewed desire to develop proactive management programs for the urban forest to avoid or minimize impacts from the next pest threat.

This year, the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) UCF program; working contractors, including Sanborn, AMEC Earth, and Environmental; and the Davey Resource Group have been engaged in a series of detailed, local, and regional urban forest assessments with a number of communities. Specifically, the cities of **Adrian** and **Ann Arbor** (see graphic to the right) have completed detailed urban tree canopy (UTC) assessments as part of a multistate U.S. Forest Service competitive grant with Ohio ([www.midwestutc.org](http://www.midwestutc.org)). Each community is also using this information to develop municipal stormwater management plans and fee assessment programs.

Existing Urban Tree Canopy by Census Block  
Ann Arbor, Michigan



The communities of **Dearborn Heights, Plymouth Township, and Shelby Township** have completed CITYgreen analysis and used this as the basis for developing and implementing prioritized tree planting programs in each community.

The city of **Detroit**, working with the DNR and Davey Resource Group, is currently undertaking a complete street tree inventory and management plan with the focus on field testing the U.S. Forest Service-supported i-Tree IPED module. This will be the largest field test to date of this important new pest detection protocol for urban forests ([www.daveytreekeeper.com/fko/detroitmi/](http://www.daveytreekeeper.com/fko/detroitmi/)).

### **Strengthening Municipal Forestry Programs in Michigan's Upper Peninsula (UP)**

With nearly 75 percent of Michigan's population residing in the southern portion of the Lower Peninsula, it is easy to see why the term "urban forestry" does not necessarily resonate with residents of the Upper Peninsula. However, with the threat of EAB and other exotic insect pests on the horizon here, communities have begun to take notice and express interest in planning and managing their urban forests. In 2011, the DNR's UCF program worked with several UP communities through a variety of grant programs and contractors to conduct complete street and park tree inventories and develop management plans, all with a focus on preparing for EAB and other insect and disease pests.

Specifically, utilizing funding from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, the communities of **Calumet, Laurium, Copper City, Hancock, and Manistique** were able to hire contractors to complete inventories and plans. Likewise, utilizing funding through the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative, the DNR UCF program partnered with the Davey Resource Group and the communities of **Iron Mountain, Ironwood, and Menominee** to complete detailed inventories and plans and host the results online using Davey's TreeKeeper management software. In each case, this was the first formal tree inventory and management plan for the communities. This information is being used to 1) create short-term EAB preparedness plans and long-term, comprehensive urban forest management plans; 2) implement proactive removal, trimming, and planting of public trees; and 3) provide an impetus for a more formal urban forestry program and pursuit of Tree City USA designation.

### **Partnerships and Tree USA Programs in Michigan**

Building partnerships is a fundamental part of Michigan's UCF program. Whether it is through annual programming to provide outreach/education with nonprofits such as **The Greening of Detroit** and **Global ReLeaf of Michigan**, statewide Arbor Day assistance via the **Eaton Conservation District**, or training/workshops with the **Arboriculture Society of Michigan**, partnerships are critical to achieving program success.

This year, the DNR's UCF program partnered with the **Michigan Forestry and Park Association** to sponsor its second Tree USA Award Banquet in April. This event brought together all Tree USA program awardees (Tree City/Line/Campus) for one day of presentations, education, networking, and recognition. Nearly 60 representatives attended the event in **Okemos**.

In 2010, two new communities (**Clio** and **Rockford**) joined Michigan's growing ranks of certified communities, bringing the State total to 119 Tree Cities, 3 Utilities, and 2 Campuses. Additionally, 9 communities were honored with the Growth Award status.

### **Statistical Highlights**

Managing and Developing Communities:	243
Population of Participating Communities:	5,059,112
Volunteer Assistance Generated (hours):	4,745



# CARS

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## Michigan FY2011 Summary

Category	Measure	Result
OUTCOMES		
1.	Percent of population living in communities <b>managing</b> programs to plant, protect and maintain their urban and community trees and forests.	42.76%
2.	Percent of population living in communities <b>developing</b> programs and/or activities to plant, protect and maintain their urban and community trees and forests.	31.02%
OUTPUTS		
1.	Number of people living in communities provided educational, technical and/or financial <b>assistance</b> .	4,900,527
2.	Number of people living in communities that are <b>developing</b> programs/activities for their urban and community trees and forests.	2,060,144
3.	Number of people living in communities <b>managing</b> their urban and community trees and forests	2,840,383
4.	Number of communities with active urban & community tree and forest <b>management plans</b> developed from professionally-based resource assessments/inventories	108
5.	Number of communities that employ or retain through written agreement the services of <b>professional forestry</b> staff who have at least one of these credentials: (1) degree in forestry or related field and (2) ISA certified arborist or equivalent professional certification	109
6.	Number of communities that have adopted and can present documentation of local/statewide <b>ordinances or policies</b> that focus on planting, protecting, and maintaining their urban and community trees and forests	286
7.	Number of communities with local <b>advocacy/ advisory organizations</b> , such as, active tree boards, commissions, or non-profit organizations that are formalized or chartered to advise and/or advocate for the planting, protection, and maintenance of urban and community trees and forests	178
8.	Number of hours of <b>volunteer service</b> logged. (An agency-wide consistent methodology to be developed to track volunteer hours)	4,745
9.	State offered community grant program in current fiscal year	Yes
10.	Number of communities receiving <b>financial assistance</b> awarded during the Federal FY 2011 through a state managed community grant program	37
11.	Amount of <b>Federal (USFS) funding</b> to States	302,100
DEMANDS		
1.	Number of people living in communities that have the <b>potential to develop management programs</b> for their trees and forests with assistance from UCF technical, financial and/or educational program services.	6,642,387
2.	Number of people living in communities <b>not managing, or developing</b> programs to manage, their urban and community trees and forests.	1,741,860
EFFICIENCY		
1.	Federal (USFS) dollar cost or <b>expenditure per capita</b> in community assisted.	\$ 0.06