

Urban and Community Forestry Program

2011 Accomplishment Report – New Hampshire

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Introduction

The New Hampshire Urban and Community Forestry Program works through a long-term partnership between the New Hampshire Division of Forests and Lands and University of New Hampshire Cooperative Extension. Staff members work cooperatively to present information on a variety of urban and community forestry topics.

The Urban Forestry Coordinator is responsible for statewide program administration and manages both the Urban Forestry Center and Shieling Forest. He also provides technical assistance to communities. A Community Forestry Volunteer Coordinator is employed by University of New Hampshire (UNH) Cooperative Extension to implement the statewide Natural Resources Stewards Volunteer program. Extension Specialists at UNH and Extension Educators (County Foresters) offer both scientific information and technical assistance to communities. Mary Reynolds, Certified Arborist with the Division of Forests and Lands, provides additional technical assistance to communities. She also coordinates the Tree City USA Program. The Community Forestry Advisory Council has 18 members from organizations that include UNH Cooperative Extension, New Hampshire Division of Forests and Lands, U.S. Forest Service, New Hampshire Department of Transportation, public utilities, arborists, landscapers, and green industry professionals. The Council provides leadership and direction for the statewide program.

Urban Forestry Center – The Urban Forestry Center in Portsmouth was a gift to the people of New Hampshire by the late John Elwyn Stone in 1976. The 182-acre property includes an administrative office, meeting facility, woodland walking trails, and several demonstration areas. More than 40 educational programs are presented annually to enhance the public's knowledge of urban and community forestry. The meeting facility is used for hundreds of conservation-related meetings each year.

Shieling Forest – The Shieling Forest in Peterborough was a gift to the State of New Hampshire by the late Elizabeth Yates McGreal in 1980. The 45-acre property includes a meeting facility, walking trails, and a demonstration wildflower garden. Due to recent renovations of the meeting facility, only six outdoor programs were presented and use of the meeting facility has been suspended at this time. We anticipate that renovations will be completed during the summer of 2012.

Volunteer Accomplishments

New Hampshire's Natural Resources Stewards Volunteer Program is a partnership between UNH Cooperative Extension, Division of Forests and Lands, Department of Fish and Game, Natural Resources Conservation Service and County Conservation Districts, Great Bay Community College, and the U.S. Forest Service. Upon completion of nearly 100 hours of training, volunteers donate 40 hours of service in

local communities to promote the benefits of natural resources. This year volunteers contributed over 9,000 hours assisting New Hampshire communities by serving on land protection boards, working on landscape projects, conducting tree inventories, and working on a variety of other projects.

Our staff is currently conducting Natural Resources Stewards annual training in Concord, NH. The 12-week training brings together 18 community volunteers and 6 college students to learn about natural resources. The classroom and hands-on training are presented by a variety of industry and educational professionals from around the State.

Key Accomplishments

i-Tree STORM Training

An i-Tree STORM training session was held in December 2010 for the city of Portsmouth Public Works employees, Natural Resources Stewards, and members of the Trees and Public Greenery Committee. The training was conducted by UNH Cooperative Extension, the New Hampshire Division of Forests and Lands, and the U.S. Forest Service. Participants in the training were broken into crews and assigned sections of the city to inventory. The Portsmouth Public Works staff created the street segment maps. Thirty street segments totaling 4.4 miles in length were inventoried. A total of 1,024 trees, representing 3.1 percent of the right-of-way (ROW) and ROW +50 feet trees, in the city were inventoried. STORM calculated that in the event of a catastrophic storm, debris totaling over 35,000 cubic yards would be generated just from the trees that fell into Portsmouth's roads. It would take approximately 8,000 hours to remove storm-damaged trees and prune hazardous limbs from roads, at a cost of \$1.3 million.



A training participant measures tree diameter during an inventory of Portsmouth, NH, trees.

Upon completion of the inventory and the interpretation of the STORM data, Fred Borman, Extension Educator with UNH Cooperative Extension, wrote a Tree Emergency Manual for the city of Portsmouth. The manual includes all of the STORM material, a Tree Emergency Plan Worksheet, a storm recovery kit produced by the National Arbor Day Foundation, and other resources related to storm damage.

Tree City USA Program

Newmarket, a seacoast community of approximately 9,000 people, recently became New Hampshire's 23rd Tree City USA Community. The process of becoming a Tree City USA Community began with the town's \$6.8 million downtown restoration to enhance Main Street and Arbor Park. Newmarket Town Planner Diane Hardy asked Mary Reynolds from the New Hampshire Division of Forests and Lands to provide technical assistance. The project involved extensive landscaping, realignment of walkways, and utility work. The community project was a cooperative effort by the Conservation Commission, the Tree Warden, a local landscape architect, and members of the Department of Public Works. An Arbor Day Celebration was hosted in December 2010 with Linked Together, a before- and after-school program for children in Newmarket.



Newmarket, NH, restored Arbor Park (pictured above with a Tree City USA flag) and Main Street (pictured below) to qualify as a Tree City USA Community.

Community Forestry Advisory Council

Members of the Community Forestry Advisory Council developed a Plan Before You Plant display for use at the Farm and Forest Expo in February 2011. The display was spearheaded by Bob Allen, Supervisor of Vegetation Management for Public Service of New Hampshire. Bob was able to provide utility poles with power lines, which were installed in the Expo Hall. Sample trees were placed appropriately to enhance the display. This scale version of utility poles demonstrated proper tree selection and location when planting near utility lines. All of the 10,000 Expo attendees walked under the display at the main entrance of the Expo Hall. Council Members staffed the display booth, answered questions, and provided attendees with literature to explain how to select and plant trees appropriately.

As a result of the enthusiastic response from attendees, a full-scale Utility Arboretum is currently being constructed at the Urban Forestry Center in Portsmouth. The demonstration includes two utility poles installed 100 feet apart and non-energized utility lines. A variety of trees have been selected to be planted under, adjacent to, and away from the utility lines. Trees will be identified and serve as a living example of proper species selection and plant location. An Arbor Day Event was hosted on May 6 in conjunction with local community leaders, Public Service of New Hampshire, and Council members. Additional trees will be added each year to complete the Utility Arboretum.

Statistical Highlights:

Number of Managing (58) and Developing (100) Communities:	158
Population of Participating Communities:	1,232,551
Volunteer Assistance Generated (hours):	9,057

