

Urban and Community Forestry Program

2017 Accomplishment Report – District of Columbia

State Contact

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Introduction

Within the government of the District of Columbia, the Urban Forestry Division (UFD) is in the District Department of Transportation. UFD is responsible for urban street trees as well as managing the regulated removal of trees from private property. UFD's duties include planting, pruning, removing, and maintaining the health of the District of Columbia's street tree canopy. Additional programs expand tree canopy and green space on District property and support green collar workforce training. Efforts are currently focused on ensuring that the District's street trees are managed throughout their life cycle, including expanded maintenance of young trees, developing a mature tree standard maintenance procedure, monitoring for invasive species and disease, and reusing urban wood waste. Recent changes include giving UFD management responsibility for all trees in public spaces, which would include all properties managed by the Department of General Services.

Key Accomplishments

Enhanced Outreach and Community Engagement through Nonprofit Collaboration

The District has been aggressively planting trees for years. We strive to be sensitive to the geographic distribution of our plantings and try to achieve equity in tree plantings across the entire District. A new collaboration with American Forests, Earth Conservation Corps, Casey Trees, and UFD has explored different engagement strategies to reach underserved communities.

As the primary implementer of on-the-ground activities, the Earth Conservation Corps employed a variety of community engagement methods, including branding, door-to-door engagement, community meetings, [public service announcements](#),



Earth Conservation Corps members canvass the Congress Heights neighborhood of Southeast DC, a high-priority area for American Forests' Community ReLeaf outreach and tree planting initiatives. (Courtesy photo by American Forests)

and robocalls. With design, training, and implementation assistance from American Forests and Casey Trees, the collaboration was able to reach new participants in the variety of planting programs available in the District. New opportunities and partnerships have been developed that will help in reaching our shared urban tree canopy goal.

Partnership with Earth Conservation Corps to Plant Trees in DC Housing Authority Properties


The Earth Conservation Corps partnered with the Urban Forestry Division and DC Public Housing Authority to plant trees on multiple Housing Authority properties. The project enables the District to work towards its canopy goal and foster community engagement and stewardship.

Volunteer Pruning Corps Pilot Program

With tens of thousands of newly planted trees in just the last few years, the District's growing canopy requires young tree maintenance. Nurturing our newly planted trees ensures a maximum return on our community's investment. Young tree structural pruning is a crucial component of our stewardship responsibilities, and the benefits realized are ample reward for addressing the challenge.

The Urban Forestry Division has partnered with Casey Trees to create a rigorous training program for volunteer Pruning Corps members. All facets of pruning theory, science, and practice are covered, complemented by ample, supervised, hands-on skills development. When they have completed their training, volunteers are ready to participate in the proactive stewardship of community trees.

This new program has increased our capacity to maintain our community forest. The structural pruning of young trees in our urban forests is an often overlooked challenge that can have significant impacts on future maintenance needs. Proactive pruning of our younger trees helps ensure that they reach a form and structure at maturity where the benefits they provide are fully realized. The Pruning Corps has already pruned hundreds of public trees. Our future canopy will reap the benefits of their hard work.



The flyer features a photograph of three people planting a tree on the left and a colorful tree graphic made of flowers on the right. The text is centered and includes the event title, dates, time, location, and contact information. Logos for Earth Conservation Corps, DC Public Housing Authority, and the District of Columbia are at the bottom.

FAIRFAX VILLAGE 4

TREE PLANTING

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 1, 2017
THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 2, 2017
9:00 AM – 2:00 PM
3909 PENNSYLVANIA AVE, S.E.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20020

For further information, please call (202) 494-4505.

Logos: Earth Conservation Corps, DC Public Housing Authority, d.

Earth Conservation Corps tree planting flyer.



Earth Conservation Corps planting on DC Housing Authority property.



Pruning Corps. (Photos courtesy of Casey Trees)

Statistical Highlights

Managing Communities:	1
Developing Communities:	0
Population of Participating Communities:	601,723
Volunteer Assistance Generated (hours):	7,095

