

# Urban and Community Forestry Program 2017 Accomplishment Report – Delaware

## State Contact

Kesha Braunskill  
Urban Forestry Coordinator  
Delaware Forest Service  
2320 South DuPont Highway  
Dover, DE 19901  
Phone: 302-698-4578  
Fax: 302-697-6287

E-mail: [Kesha.Braunskill@state.de.us](mailto:Kesha.Braunskill@state.de.us)

Website:

[http://dda.delaware.gov/forestry/conser.shtml#](http://dda.delaware.gov/forestry/conser.shtml#Urban)

[Urban](#)

[www.delawaretrees.com](http://www.delawaretrees.com)

## State Forester

Michael A. Valenti  
Delaware Forest Service  
2320 South DuPont Highway  
Dover, DE 19901  
Phone: 302-698-4550  
Fax: 302-697-6287  
E-mail: [michael.valenti@state.de.us](mailto:michael.valenti@state.de.us)



## Introduction

The Delaware Forest Service Urban & Community Forestry (U&CF) Program provides technical, financial, and educational assistance to communities, homeowners, and nonprofit organizations throughout Delaware. The assistance that our program provides is vital to help maintain several of our strategic goals, including local tree canopy initiatives, heat island mitigation projects, and open space management, along with several others.

The U&CF Program staff consists of the U&CF Coordinator and the Outreach and Partnership Coordinator. Additionally, the U&CF Council consists of 13 seated members, individuals who have urban forestry experience statewide and serve in an advisory capacity to the program. The U&CF Council also assists with the competitive grant award process that is offered annually statewide.

This year, the U&CF Program offered an annual competitive grant opportunity to communities, nonprofit organizations, and government agencies for tree planting and tree management projects on publicly owned lands. This year there were grant submissions that totaled more than \$100,000. The program was able to fund \$80,000 in projects to municipalities and communities through the Federal U&CF grant as well as leverage additional funding [via] allocated State funds and a passthrough grant from the Delaware Department of Natural Resources Nonpoint Source section. The additional funding enabled the program to award all 15 requested tree planting projects. Additionally, 10 tree maintenance projects were funded out of 19 applications.

The request for grants projects shows the commitment of Delaware communities to increasing their tree canopy and maintaining their urban forest resource.

## Key Accomplishments

### Arts, Culture, and Heritage Preservation Field Days

The Delaware Forest Service Urban and Community Forestry Program participated for a second year in the Arts, Culture, and Heritage Preservation Field Days. This event reached more than 900 fourth grade students statewide from Title 1 schools (academically at-risk students) in May 2017. The Arts, Culture,



Fourth grade students (above and left) participate in the Arts, Culture, and Heritage Preservation Field Days in Dover, DE.

and Heritage Preservation Field Days was held on the Dover historic Green and sponsored by First State Heritage Park and First State National Historic Park. The event was funded with an Every Kid in the Park transportation grant. The Delaware Forest Service U&CF Program and partners participated in the 3-day event. Each partner provided a station for the students to cycle through with the theme of history and preservation. The U&CF Program’s self-guided station provided the students the opportunity to learn about 10 tree species that have had historic and cultural importance in Delaware. Students got to see the State Champion American Elm located at the site of the event and were given take-home information about each of the trees they learned about and the locations of champion trees in the State of Delaware. The station was designed to meet the State of Delaware’s educational standards for fourth grade in history, geography, science, and culture. The students were excited to learn about trees in this unique setting. Additional partners for this event included the National Park Service, Delaware Public Archives, State Historic Preservation Office, Delaware Lenape Indian Tribe, and the Delaware Department of Natural Resources. The event continues to be a success; the U&CF program is scheduled to participate in 2018.

**7<sup>th</sup> Annual Delaware Arborist and Tree Care Seminar**

The Urban and Community Forestry Program organized the 7<sup>th</sup> Annual Delaware Arborist and Tree Care Seminar held in 2017 at the State Fairgrounds in Harrington, DE. This year’s seminar was moved to a new season and new location in central Delaware, which proved to be a great location as attendance reached 180 people for the 1½-day event. Speakers and exhibitors were well received. Topics included instruction on cabling and bracing, OSHA standards for tree worker safety, and storm preparedness. Attendees also experienced outdoor demonstrations on setting up job sites and safety and bucket truck inspections. Attendees included certified arborist and tree care workers as well as State, municipal, and community decisionmakers from throughout Delaware and the Maryland Eastern Shore.



The Delaware Arborist and Tree Care Seminar included outdoor demonstrations and training.

**Statistical Highlights**

Managing Communities:	40
Developing Communities:	34
Population of Participating Communities:	676,261
Volunteer Assistance Generated (hours):	3,631

