

Urban and Community Forestry Program 2017 Accomplishment Report – Michigan

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Introduction

Michigan is the Great Lakes State and home to nearly 10 million people. It is also home to one of the Nation's largest State forest systems and three national forests, and is surrounded by the largest freshwater lake system in the world. Equally important are the State's 1,300 plus communities where nearly 80% of the State's citizens live, work, and play. The trees and forests in and around these communities provide important ecological, economic, and social benefits, and they must be managed to ensure long-term sustainability, health, and resilience for current and future generations.

Michigan's Urban and Community Forestry (UCF) program is administered by one full-time equivalent staff member working to promote management of urban forest resources through technical, educational, and financial assistance. During FY 2017, this assistance, made possible through the U.S. Forest Service, reached nearly 5.5 million people living in participating communities throughout the State.

The DNR's UCF program provides this critical assistance at the local level through grants and agreements with communities, community-based organizations, and others. Outcomes are focused on building awareness and local capacity to manage urban forests and ensure their health and sustainability while enhancing the vibrancy and livability of communities.

Key Accomplishments

Highlighted Projects

Title: Data Drives Results: Demonstrating the Impact of Federal/State UCF Assistance to Three Communities in Michigan

Location(s): Ann Arbor, Detroit, Grand Rapids

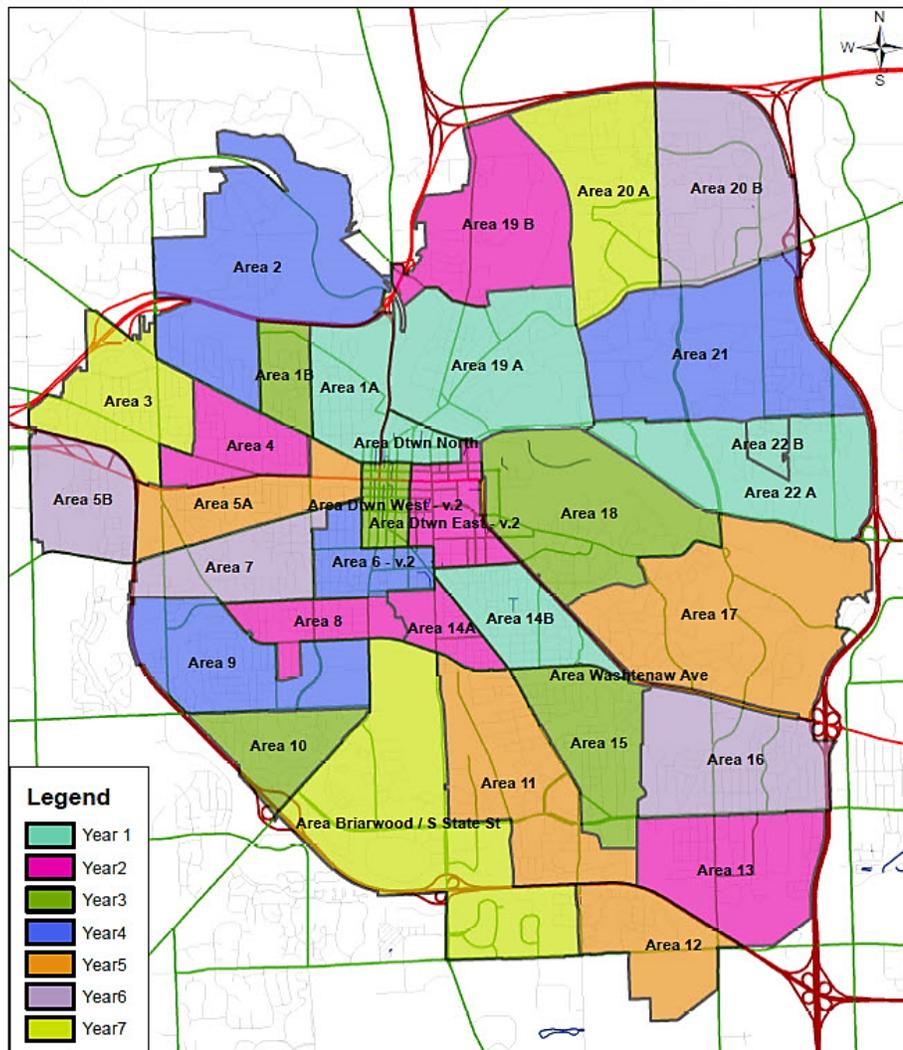
Summary: Building community capacity to improve management of local urban forest resources is a priority of both the Federal and State urban and community forestry programs. To achieve this shared goal, the DNR's UCF program dedicates a portion of its financial assistance to support a competitive grant program focused on helping communities improve local management. During Fiscal Year 2017, three communities—Ann Arbor, Detroit, and Grand Rapids—demonstrated how this assistance has translated to program budget enhancements and improved on-the-ground management. Summarized below are community briefs that highlight the role of our program assistance in creating real data and real results.

City of Ann Arbor

In September 2017, the [city of Ann Arbor announced](#) that it was budgeting \$700,000 to bring back routine pruning of city street trees. This was a noteworthy announcement since the city had been developing a significant backlog of needed maintenance as a result of budgetary cuts and impacts from the emerald ash borer.

Thanks in part to financial and technical assistance provided by the DNR's UCF program, the city was able to secure grants to complete a street tree inventory, complete an urban tree canopy and i-Tree Eco analysis, and develop a comprehensive management plan. With this analytical data in hand and a plan that articulated priorities, the city's staff was able to quantify needs/benefits and justify budget requests to implement them. This exemplifies the success of the Federal/State/local partnership in urban and community forestry.

7-Year Street Tree Pruning Cycle*



*The year a specific Area is scheduled to be pruned is subject to change

Note: Areas selected for each year are based on resources needs, including tree size and species composition; geographic location; date last pruned, if known; and number of trees in area.

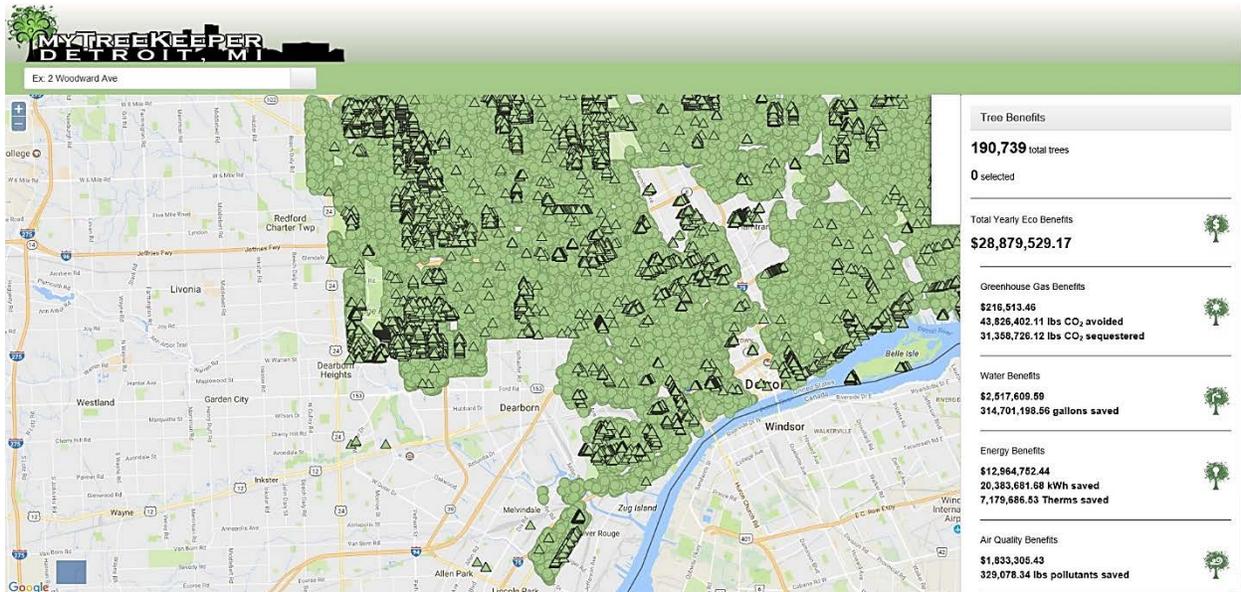
City of Ann Arbor
www.a2gov.org/terms

Map depicting the proposed 7-year street tree pruning schedule for Ann Arbor (October 2017).

City of Detroit

Utilizing a series of federally funded grants provided by the U.S. Forest Service to the DNR, the city of Detroit successfully completed a multiyear effort to inventory more than 190,000 street trees, create a corresponding management plan, and justify more than \$3 million in new forestry funding in late 2016. Prior to this assistance, the city operated reactively with no baseline data or information about the condition, location, or composition of the public street trees for which it was responsible. Not surprisingly, it was delinquent in performing maintenance actions due in part to a lack of data, a plan, or a budget to support needed work.

Thanks to the issuance of UCF program grants, the city is now able to document more than 13,000 trees that need removal; quantify the collective annual economic contributions of its street trees (\$29 million); define a plan for proactive management; and justify annual budget requests based on factual, data-driven need.



Screenshot of Detroit's tree inventory data as depicted on MyTreeKeeper Detroit (October 2017).

City of Grand Rapids

Finally, in late 2017, the [city of Grand Rapids announced](#) that it was budgeting \$2.4 million for removal and pruning of more than 3,000 high-risk street trees. Again, the justification for budgeting and conducting this work was largely a function of having detailed data about the condition and maintenance needs of the community's public trees. Data were collected and analyzed through an extensive street tree inventory and canopy assessment made possible via DNR-issued UCF program grants. As with the other two communities, this assistance proved critical in describing and quantifying the level of need and subsequently leveraging it to support budgetary requests. This ultimately translates into success as demonstrated by tangible actions being taken towards supporting better management of the local urban forest.

Statistical Highlights

Managing Communities:	77
Developing Communities:	167
Population of Participating Communities:	5,408,545
Volunteer Assistance Generated (hours):	9,736

