

# Urban and Community Forestry Program 2017 Accomplishment Report – New Jersey

## State Contact

Carrie Sargeant  
New Jersey State Forestry Services  
Mail Code 501-4  
P.O. Box 420  
501 East State Street  
Trenton, NJ 08625-0420  
Phone: 609-292-2532  
Fax: 609-984-0378  
E-mail: [carrie.sargeant@dep.nj.gov](mailto:carrie.sargeant@dep.nj.gov)  
Websites: [www.communityforestry.nj.gov](http://www.communityforestry.nj.gov),  
[www.nj.gov/dep/parksandforests/forest/community/Treasure\\_our\\_trees.htm](http://www.nj.gov/dep/parksandforests/forest/community/Treasure_our_trees.htm)

## State Forester

John Sacco  
New Jersey State Forestry Services  
P.O. Box 420  
Trenton, NJ 08625-0420  
Phone: 609-292-2520  
Fax: 609-984-0378  
E-mail: [john.sacco@dep.nj.gov](mailto:john.sacco@dep.nj.gov)  
Website: [www.forestry.nj.gov](http://www.forestry.nj.gov)

## Introduction

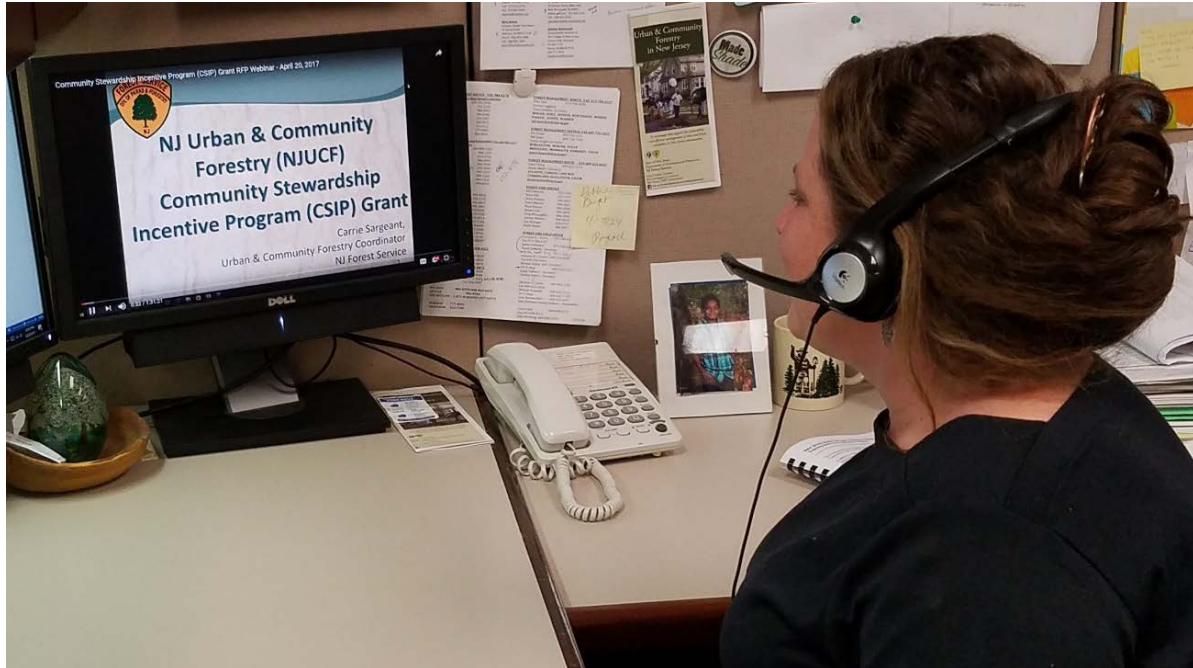
The New Jersey Urban & Community Forestry Program (NJUCF) is a unique program established by the New Jersey Shade Tree and Community Forestry Assistance Act (N.J.A.C. 13: 1L-17.1 et. seq.). NJUCF works to encourage, promote, and support the local stewardship and effective management of trees and forests in New Jersey's communities. NJUCF is dedicated to making communities more livable by providing grants, technical assistance, training, and volunteer opportunities. The program continues to seek cutting edge opportunities and innovative initiatives to build a sustainable statewide effort to manage local, publicly owned trees and forests. Partnerships are key to accomplishing this work. With U.S. Forest Service Urban and Community Forestry (UCF) Program assistance, the goal of having a statewide urban and community forestry initiative continues.

## Key Accomplishments

In FY 2017, NJUCF provided grant funding to assist 46 communities with tree planting, management plan development, or inventory/assessment projects. Approximately \$228,000 in Federal UCF dollars was leveraged with more than \$1 million in State and local investments to complete these projects. NJUCF continued its successful partnership with the New Jersey Tree Foundation with targeted tree planting and green infrastructure projects delivered with community partners in high-need neighborhoods of Camden, Newark, and surrounding areas.

This year NJUCF made great strides in making the program more accessible and relevant through new program advances in social media and online education, communication, and grants and data management. In April 2017, NJUCF hosted its first webinar, which focused on the 2017 Community Stewardship Incentive Program grants. These grants serve local governments and enable them to implement their local Community Forestry Management Plans. A total of 122 people registered for the 1-hour webinar that included time for questions and answers at the end. The webinar was then posted on the [NJUCF website](#) through [YouTube](#) and is available online for folks to access at any time. There was a noticeable improvement in the quality of the grant applications received this year following the webinar. More webinars are scheduled for early 2018. In May 2017, NJUCF launched its own [Facebook](#) page. This allows the program to reach a new audience and provide timely and up-to-date information on urban and

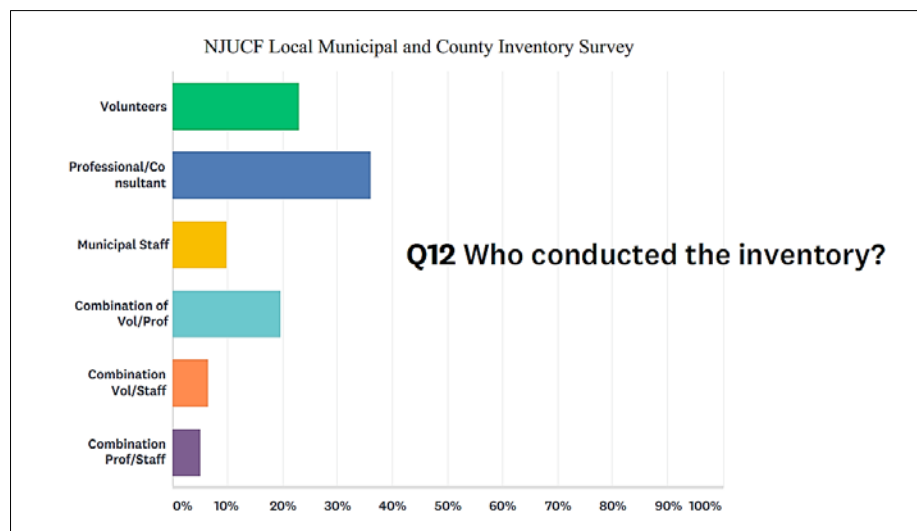
community forestry news and events. The page has 149 “likes” and 165 “followers.” In addition to Facebook, the NJUCF has made great strides in reaching its stakeholders via a new [listserv](#). Visitors to the NJUCF website are now able to add themselves to the listserv directly via a sign-up bar on the screen. There are currently nearly 919 people subscribed to the NJUCF listserv.



New Jersey Urban Forestry Coordinator Carrie Sargeant launches the first webinar for communities on grant opportunities. (Courtesy photo provided by Carrie Sargeant)

In July 2017, NJUCF put out its first Doodle poll of local governments with the assistance of the NJDEP’s Office of Municipal Outreach. The poll solicited information from local governments about urban forest inventories. A total of 158 responses were received, which exceeded expectations. Approximately 50 responses were from communities that were not previously engaged with the program. So in addition to having this online tool assist us with gathering data to guide our programming, we were able to engage and assist new communities through collaboration within the NJDEP to solicit responses.

Of the 158 communities that answered, 68 have some form of an inventory, with 43 of those being complete. The other information gathered through this Doodle poll has been extremely informative. NJUCF will use the results to inform the program about the needs of our communities and direct efforts to address those needs in order to raise the number of New Jersey communities with urban forest inventories even higher. The answers to



New poll of municipalities gathered valuable data on tree inventory efforts and needs across the State.

questions related to software used and attendance at inventory training sessions revealed that there is a knowledge gap that can be improved upon. In addition, responses related to why inventories have not been conducted show the barriers that communities are facing. This knowledge will help the program address those issues and work more closely with communities to create and sustain safe and healthy urban forests.



*Young people create art expressing the benefits of urban and community trees at the 2017 Fall Forestry Festival. (Courtesy photo by Terri Slack, New Jersey UCF Program)*

### **Statistical Highlights**

Managing Communities:	280
Developing Communities:	119
Population of Participating Communities:	7,644,718
Volunteer Assistance Generated (hours):	18,414

