

# Urban and Community Forestry Program

## 2017 Accomplishment Report – Pennsylvania

### State Contacts

Rachel Reyna  
Rural and Community Forestry Section Chief  
Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and  
Natural Resources  
Bureau of Forestry  
400 Market Street  
P.O. Box 8552  
Harrisburg, PA 17105  
Phone: 717-783-0385  
Fax: 717-783-5109  
E-mail: [rreyna@pa.gov](mailto:rreyna@pa.gov)  
Website:  
<http://www.dcnr.state.pa.us/forestry/communitytrees.index.htm>

Ellen Roane  
TreeVitalize Technical Assistance and  
Urban Wood Use Coordinator  
E-mail: [eroane@pa.gov](mailto:eroane@pa.gov)

Shea Zwerver  
Volunteer Coordinator  
E-mail: [c-szwerver@pa.gov](mailto:c-szwerver@pa.gov)

Mark Hockley  
Tree Canopy Coordinator  
E-mail: [c-mhockley@pa.gov](mailto:c-mhockley@pa.gov)

Jessica Cavey  
Development and Grants Coordinator  
PA Urban and Community Forestry Council  
E-mail: [info@treepennsylvania.org](mailto:info@treepennsylvania.org)

### State Forester

Ellen Shultzabarger  
Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and  
Natural Resources  
Bureau of Forestry  
400 Market Street  
P.O. Box 8552  
Harrisburg, PA 17105  
Phone: 717-783-0389  
Fax: 717-783-5109  
E-mail: [eshultzaba@pa.gov](mailto:eshultzaba@pa.gov)

### Introduction

The Pennsylvania Urban and Community Forestry Program is a partnership among the Pennsylvania Bureau of Forestry, Penn State Extension Program, and Pennsylvania Community Forests (a.k.a. the Pennsylvania Urban and Community Forestry Council), with financial and technical support from the U.S. Forest Service. The mission of the program is to help communities develop comprehensive and sustainable urban forestry programs that enhance quality of life.

## Key Accomplishments

### Tree Tenders® Continues Expanding

Tree Tenders is a program of the Pennsylvania Horticultural Society that trains and involves citizens in the care of urban trees. Tree Tenders was adopted more than a decade ago as a vital component of [TreeVitalize](#), the State's Urban and Community Forestry Program, and has been exceptionally successful throughout the State.

To qualify as a Tree Tender in the TreeVitalize Program, individuals are required to complete a 7-hour workshop offered over a full day or over a period of weekly sessions. Completion of Tree Tenders training is required to qualify for trees or grants through TreeVitalize. TreeVitalize partners offer both work parties and social events regularly to keep Tree Tenders engaged. Through TreeVitalize, a network of thousands of dedicated volunteers has been mobilized to help to ensure support for urban forestry into the future.

Total Tree Tenders Trained	
Philadelphia:	3,715
Pittsburgh:	1,659
Other Cities Statewide:	1,026
Online:	389
<b>Grand Total:</b>	<b>6,581</b>

### City of Allentown Tree Inventory and i-Tree Benefits Report

In the city of Allentown, the third largest metropolitan area of the State, the benefits and value of trees were assessed using i-Tree Streets software, version 5.1.5. Results of the i-Tree analysis of Allentown showed overall annual benefits provided by the 10,496 inventoried trees to be valued at \$1,018,773, or an average of \$97.06 per tree. This overall value is calculated from the combined benefits across five categories: rainfall interception, energy conservation, air pollution reduction, carbon dioxide sequestration, and aesthetic enhancements.

Benefit Type	Resource Units	Total Dollars	Average \$/Tree
Rainfall interception (gallons)	24,203,455	\$193,628	\$18.45
Energy conservation (total)	--	\$356,110	\$33.93
Electricity (MWh)	1,153.5	\$107,511	--
Natural gas (therms)	406,873.4	\$248,600	--
Air pollution reduction (net lbs)	25,917	\$135,133	\$12.87
Carbon dioxide sequestration (lbs)	6,178,290	\$20,388	\$1.94
Aesthetic enhancements	--	\$313,514	\$29.87
<b>Total benefits</b>	<b>--</b>	<b>\$1,018,773</b>	<b>\$97.06</b>

*Summary of the benefits and value provided by urban trees in Allentown, PA.*



View of tree canopy in Allentown, PA. (Courtesy photo provided by Ellen Roane, PA DCNR)

### **Making Volunteers Key to Tree Inventories & Plantings**

The Western Pennsylvania Conservancy (WPC) partnered with the Borough of Ligonier and the Ligonier Shade Tree Commission (STC) to complete a street tree and small parks inventory during the summer of 2015. Afterwards, community volunteers planted 100 street and park trees in the borough.

*“We would not have been able to complete an urban forestry project like this without WPC...our community was brought together through this experience and will reap the benefits of all our hard work for generations to come.” – Matt Smith, Chairman, Ligonier STC*

### **Statistical Highlights**

Managing Communities:	247
Developing Communities:	192
Population of Participating Communities:	7,293,392
Volunteer Assistance Generated (hours):	17,296



Volunteers planting street trees in the Borough of Ligonier. (Courtesy photo provided by Ellen Roane, PA DCNR)