

Urban and Community Forestry Program 2016 Accomplishment Report – Delaware

State Contact

Kesha Braunskill
Urban Forestry Coordinator
Delaware Forest Service
2320 South DuPont Highway
Dover, DE 19952
Phone: 302-698-4578
Fax: 302-697-6287
E-mail: Kesha.Braunskill@state.de.us
Web sites:
<http://dda.delaware.gov/forestry/conser.shtml#Urban>
www.delawaretrees.com

State Forester

Michael A. Valenti
Delaware Department of Agriculture
2320 South DuPont Highway
Dover, DE 19901
Phone: 302-698-4550
Fax: 302-697-6287
E-mail: michael.valenti@state.de.us



Introduction

The Delaware Forest Service's 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.

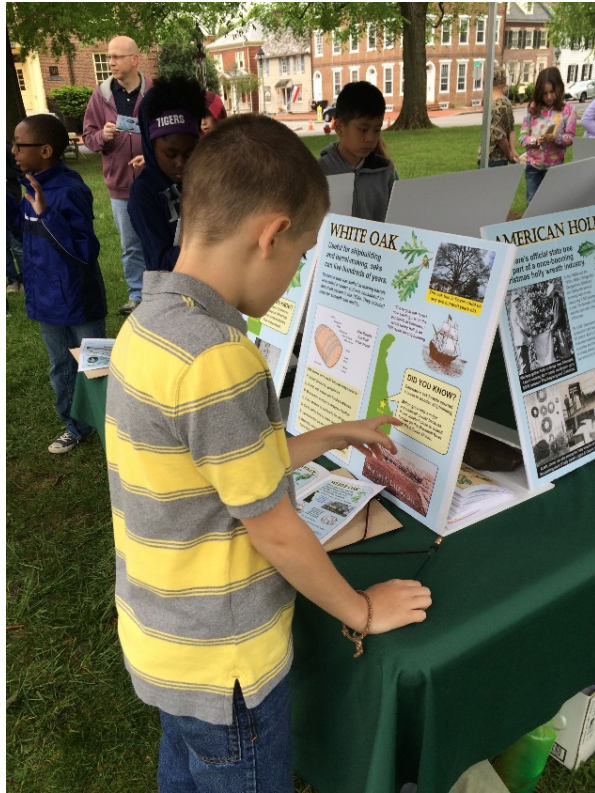
Once again this year, the U&CF Program offered an annual competitive grant opportunity to communities, non-profit organizations and government agencies for tree planting and tree management projects on publicly owned lands. This year there were grant submissions which totaled more than \$100,000. The program was able to fund \$40,000 in projects to municipalities and communities, including 11 tree planting projects and 4 tree maintenance projects. In addition the program awarded 3 tree planting grants that took place within the Chesapeake Bay watershed that totaled just over \$10,000. The request for grants projects shows the communities' commitment to increasing the tree canopy and maintaining their urban forest resource.

Key Accomplishments

Arts, Culture, and Heritage Preservation Field Days

The Delaware Forest Service's Urban and Community Forestry Program was able to reach 900+ fourth grade students from all three counties in May 2016. The Arts, Culture, and Heritage Preservation Field Days, held on the Dover historic Green, were 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 was asked to be one of 17 partners to participate in the 3-day event. The program targeted fourth grade students from Title 1 schools and underserved youth. Each partner provided a station for the students to cycle through every 25 minutes throughout each day. With the theme of history and preservation, the U&CF Program was charged with the opportunity to teach young people about the importance of trees while staying within the parameters of the history, culture, and preservation theme. The U&CF Program developed a self-guided station where the students learned about 10 tree species that have had historic and cultural importance in Delaware. Students had the

opportunity to also take a look at the State Champion American Elm located at the site of the event as well as take home information about each of the trees they learned about and the location of champion trees in the State of Delaware. The station was designed to meet the State of Delaware 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, and the Delaware Department of Natural Resources. The event was such a success that the U&CF Program has been asked to participate again next year.



Fourth grade students participate in the Arts, Culture, and Heritage Preservation Field Days.

U&CF Council Municipal Pruning Workshop

The Urban and Community Forestry Council has stepped up involvement in 2016. In May 2016, members of the Council taught a municipal pruning workshop to municipal workers in Georgetown and Milton, Delaware. There has been a longstanding need to include outreach and training to smaller municipalities that want training in proper tree care and management. The municipal workers were eager to learn basic tree pruning techniques. The workshop included indoor lecture style instruction followed by an outdoor demonstration and work day in a local park where participants were able to work on trees within their community. The participants were able to use various pruning tools and get hands-on experience. The workshop was a huge success, and both municipalities have asked for followup workshops on pruning as well as proper tree planting.



Participants of a municipal pruning workshop learn about proper tree pruning techniques.



Workshop participants practice pruning techniques in a local park.

Statistical Highlights

Managing Communities:	39
Developing Communities:	31
Population of Participating Communities:	650,338
Volunteer Assistance Generated (Hours):	3,253

