

Urban and Community Forestry Program

2016 Accomplishment Report – New Hampshire

State Contact

A.J. Dupere, Urban Forester
Urban Forestry Program Coordinator
New Hampshire Division of Forests and Lands
Urban Forestry Center
45 Elwyn Road
Portsmouth, NH 03801
Phone: 603-431-6774
E-mail: a.j.dupere@dred.nh.gov
Web site: www.nhdf.org

State Forester

Brad W. Simpkins, Director
New Hampshire Division of Forests and Lands
172 Pembroke Road
Concord, NH 03301
Phone: 603-271-2214
Fax: 603-271-6488
E-mail: brad.simpkins@dred.nh.gov

Introduction

The New Hampshire Urban and Community Forestry Program exists through a long-term partnership between the New Hampshire Division of Forests and Lands and the University of New Hampshire Cooperative Extension. Staff members work cooperatively to present information on a variety of urban and community forestry topics.

The Urban Forestry Coordinator is responsible for statewide program administration and manages both the Urban Forestry Center and Shieling Forest. The coordinator also provides technical assistance to communities statewide. Mary Tebo Davis, the Community Forestry Volunteer Coordinator, is employed by University of New Hampshire (UNH) Cooperative Extension to administer and carry out the statewide Natural Resources Stewards Volunteer Program. Extension Specialists at UNH and County Extension Field Specialists offer both scientific information and technical assistance to communities. The NH Division of Forests and Lands also employs a Community Forester to provide technical assistance to communities in the central and western part of the State. The Community Forestry Advisory Council meets biannually and provides guidance for the statewide program. The Council consists of members from UNH Cooperative Extension, New Hampshire Division of Forests and Lands, U.S. Forest Service, New Hampshire Department of Transportation, public utilities, arborists, landscapers, municipal employees, and community leaders.

Urban Forestry Center

The Urban Forestry Center in Portsmouth was a gift to the people of New Hampshire by the late John Elwyn Stone in 1976. The 182-acre property includes an administrative office, forestry education center, woodland walking trails, a community garden, and several demonstration areas. More than 30 educational programs are presented annually to enhance the public's knowledge and understanding of urban and community forestry topics. The Center also provides a meeting facility for use by conservation-related organizations.

Shieling Forest

Shieling Forest in Peterborough was a gift to the State of New Hampshire by the late Elizabeth Yates McGreal in 1980. The 45-acre property includes a meeting room, walking trails, and an American chestnut seed orchard. The facility features the use of several local wood products, including a timber frame porch constructed with trees harvested from the property. Educational programs are presented seasonally to increase awareness and promote wise use of our natural resources. A meeting room is provided for use by local conservation-related organizations.

Key Accomplishments

Volunteer Accomplishments

New Hampshire's Natural Resources Stewards (NRS) Volunteer Program is a partnership between UNH Cooperative Extension, NH Division of Forests and Lands, NH Department of Fish and Game, the Natural Resources Conservation Service and County Conservation Districts, Great Bay Community College, and the U.S. Forest Service. After completing nearly 100 hours of training, volunteers donate 40 hours of service in local communities to promote the benefits of natural resources. This year volunteers contributed over 11,000 hours helping New Hampshire communities by serving on land protection boards, working on landscape projects, conducting tree inventories, and working on a variety of other projects.

In the fall our staff conducted NRS training in Portsmouth at the Urban Forestry Center. The 12-week training brings together community volunteers and college students to learn about natural resources. A variety of industry and educational professionals from around the State present the classroom and hands-on training sessions. The 2016 class will graduate 25 volunteers, who will join more than 250 active volunteers to help with Urban and Community Forestry Program activities throughout the State.

Community and Program Success Stories

The greatest success story for the New Hampshire Urban and Community Forestry Program is the longevity and consistency of the program. Many years ago program staff developed the volunteer training program to enhance our staff efforts for outreach and education. The training has evolved over several decades to include such topics as tree care and maintenance, conservation of natural resources, climate change, and working with local government. Hundreds of volunteers work statewide conducting inventories, serving as members of land use committees, conducting educational workshops, and working to beautify public lands. The depth of knowledge and enthusiasm of the volunteers continues to increase annually. Attending the Natural Resource Volunteer Training session can be a life changing experience. The following excerpts are examples of how volunteers make a difference in New Hampshire. Read more about [Natural Resource Volunteer Training](#).

- Ken Laquire is a volunteer in Manchester from the class of 2015, and his passion is community gardens. He has established a community garden at Manchester Community College. Through his efforts more than 30 people have had an opportunity to grow vegetables, plant fruit trees, enjoy open space, and create a sense of community. Ken has volunteered over 650 hours this year and has connected college students with refugees from around the world now living in Manchester. College students in the welding program have created benches to build an outdoor classroom. Ken's strong volunteer spirit continues to encourage others to volunteer, and he has exciting future plans to build a greenhouse to expand the community garden.
- Richard Adams is a volunteer in Portsmouth from the class of 2002 and is involved in many efforts in the city. He is a founding member of the Trees and Greenery Committee whose primary responsibility is the planting and maintenance of new trees and the removal of risk trees. At his request, the mayor implemented this standing committee that includes seven very active community members and Public Works staff. The committee meets monthly to review tree removal requests, inspect city trees, approve site plans, and develop tree replacement schedules. As a result of the positive work of the committee, Portsmouth now employs a Certified Arborist and two full-time staff. Dick is also a New Hampshire Big Tree Hunter and has lead several educational workshops on the importance of large community trees.

Scott Rolfe, Community Forester for the NH Division of Forests and Lands, has brought several new ideas to the New Hampshire Urban and Community Forestry Program. Last year, Scott developed a local version of the *Visiting Community Forester Program* and has worked with several communities new to our program. In an effort to reach additional unserved communities, Scott has developed an online newsletter, [New Hampshire's Annual Urban & Community Trees E-letter](#). The newsletter is sent to

community leaders, program staff, and local government officials around the State. This fall the newsletter featured the city of Nashua’s park development efforts and the celebration of Arbor Day in Lebanon, NH. Scott also provided an update on New Hampshire’s forest health issues and information on how communities can help drought-stressed trees.

A new Wood-Mizer portable band sawmill was recently purchased to enhance our urban wood utilization efforts. It will be used for demonstrations and training to encourage the use of urban wood. The mill will be available to help communities repurpose historically significant trees. Our initial project will be to mill the last large American elm growing on Pierce Island in Portsmouth, NH.



Wood-Mizer portable band sawmill

Community Forestry Advisory Council

Members of the Community Forestry Advisory Council created a new display for the Farm and Forest Expo held January 22–23, 2016, in Manchester, NH. The display featured a detailed map showing which communities have an active Urban and Community Forestry program and which communities are in the process of developing a program. We also provided educational information about the emerald ash borer, winter moth, and hemlock woolly adelgid to help people identify these exotic pests in New Hampshire communities. As part of the Don’t Move Firewood Program, council members and our Forest Health staff created a firewood display and included two insect rearing barrels with hundreds of insects found in firewood being moved around the region. The booth was featured at the main entrance of the Expo hall and was seen by thousands of attendees. The council also sponsored a seedling planting activity during Discover Wild New Hampshire Day hosted at the NH Fish and Game Headquarters in Concord on April 16, 2016. Council members helped pot more than 1,000 seedlings grown at the NH State Forest Nursery in Boscawen.

The council’s administrative assistant and longtime community volunteer, Angie Hammond, has retired from her position at the Urban Forestry Center. Council members will meet this fall to discuss future support staff options.

Statistical Highlights

Managing Communities:	68
Developing Communities:	105
Population of Participating Communities:	1,216,532
Volunteer Assistance Generated (hours):	11,349

