

1998 USDA URBAN FORESTRY

Michigan

State Forester: Gerald Thiede

Contact: Cara Boucher
Urban Forestry Coordinator
Michigan Dept. of Natural Resources
Stevens T. Mason Building
P.O. Box 30452
Lansing, MI 48909-7952
tel: (517) 335-3354
fax: (517) 373-2443
e-mail: boucher@state.mi.us
<http://www.dnr.state.mi.us/>

Communities in Michigan face pressures from changing land use, contamination, development, and changing community needs, perceptions, and priorities. The Urban and Community Forestry (UCF) program provides a conduit for information, technical expertise, and incentives to communities to encourage management of natural resources on a local and regional scale.

Program Components

Education
Technical Assistance
Information
Grants

Highlights

A total of \$158,800 in grants from the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (DNR) Community Forestry Program was awarded to 37 communities, including 11 grants to conduct **tree inventories**. For example, after its inventory of public trees revealed a high percentage of maple, the **City of Lathrup** decided that future tree planting should focus on diversifying its urban forest.

Michigan's **Visiting Urban Forester program** provided technical expertise and recommendations for initiating or augmenting community forestry programs to 34 communities. The \$8,000 grant from the DNR supporting this program was matched by \$13,500 volunteer in-kind hours and a \$3,350 cash match from communities. Since these visits have successfully increased awareness of urban forestry, several other states across the country have adopted this program to expand their community outreach.

Recent severe weather throughout the state prompted communities to prepare better **storm response plans**. The DNR partnered with the Emergency Management Division of the State Police, Michigan State University Extension, Michigan Forest and Park Association, and other organizations to obtain a \$15,000 Federal Emergency Management Act Hazard Mitigation Grant. Two storm preparedness workshops were conducted to teach the participants how to work with emergency management agencies, who to contact, and how to clean up after storms.

In response to a severe storm, representatives from state and local governments, as well as private and non-profit organizations, formed the **Storm Reforestation Alliance** to promote tree-planting in southeastern Michigan. Over 500 residents and volunteers planted 788 trees to replace the 5,700 trees damaged on public property. The DNR Community Forestry Program provided \$10,000 for tree planting in communities, including **Detroit, Highland Park, and Hamtramck**, which helped to leverage an additional \$47,000 for trees.

STATE ACHIEVEMENTS REPORT

As a voluntary participant in the US Department of Energy's Climate Challenge, Detroit Edison partnered with the DNR to **plant over 10 million trees and seedlings** over the past three years to sequester carbon, produce oxygen, and protect soil. The partnership, which began through work on the Michigan Urban and Community Forestry Council, created a new urban tree planting program awarding 17 grants totaling over \$60,000.

The UCF Program partnered with the **Michigan Envirothon** and others to host the national Envirothon - a natural resources competition for high school students. This national competition adopted Michigan Envirothon's unique ecosystem approach to the competition. The 30 teams from the United States and Canada were questioned about forests, soils, water, and wildlife at outdoor sites.

The DNR-Forest Management Division partnered with the DNR-Wildlife Division, the Michigan Habitat Foundation, Michigan United Conservation Clubs, Michigan Beautiful, the Ingham Soil Conservation District, Michigan State University Extension, and Project Wild Michigan to fund the **NEST 2000 Project**. These grants will provide 10 outdoor classrooms at schools including **Engadine, Midland, and Rogers City**. A \$9,000 Forest Management Division grant was matched by a \$15,000 Wildlife Division grant.

The UCF staff provided technical assistance at the **DNR's Pocket Park** during the State Fair. The 100,000 visitors enjoyed fishing, exhibits and seminars, and a landscape of native trees and wildflowers. Future plans include year-round environmental education programs at the State Fairgrounds in Detroit.

Federal Program Support		<i>Dollars in thousands</i>		
The State Program	<u>FY 1995</u>	<u>FY 1996</u>	<u>FY 1997</u>	<u>FY 1998</u>
	262.3	362.5	326.5	311.2