

2008 Accomplishment Report – Pennsylvania

State Contacts

Rachel R. Billingham, Community Forestry
Coordinator
E-mail: rbillingha@state.pa.us

Ellen Roane, Urban Forestry Coordinator
E-mail: eroane@state.pa.us

Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and
Natural Resources
Bureau of Forestry
P.O. Box 8552
Harrisburg, PA 17105-8552
Phone: (717) 783-0385
Fax: (717) 783-5109
Web site:
<http://www.dcnr.state.pa.us/forestry/pucfc/index.html>

State Forester

Daniel A. Devlin
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: ddevlin@state.pa.us

Introduction

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

Key Accomplishments

■ Statewide

TreeVitalize to Expand to Pennsylvania's 14 Metro Areas

For the last several years, the Pennsylvania TreeVitalize program has worked successfully in Philadelphia and Pittsburgh to plant trees and educate citizens about tree planting and tree-related issues. The State is now slated to expand the TreeVitalize effort to 12 other metropolitan areas. This effort will leverage \$1 million per year for at least 3 years. The Bureau of Forestry has partnered with Penn State Extension and the Pennsylvania Horticultural Society to prepare the State's service foresters for increased participation in the program.

■ Northeast

Training Teachers and Youth about Urban Ecosystems

Through a series of partnerships between Penn State Cooperative Extension, Department of Conservation and Natural Resources Bureau of Forestry, Keystone College Environmental Education Institute (KCEEI), and school districts in northeastern Pennsylvania, various programs were developed that exposed teachers and students to the impacts of urbanization on local ecosystems and how they function. Thirty teachers taking part in KCEEI received lectures and program materials on urban ecosystems, stormwater management, invasive species, and the role of urban vegetation. In addition, more than 200 students in various schools participated in lectures and a field study program titled *Connections to Our*

Watershed. A “Green Careers” program exposed over 100 students to urban forestry, arboriculture, forestry, and other natural resource careers.

The Role of Urban Trees and Forests in Healthy Watersheds

The extension urban forester in northeastern Pennsylvania continues to work in the area of stormwater management and watersheds and has developed a presentation (and workshop) that continues to be in demand across the region and State. A presentation about the role of trees and forests in managing stormwater was delivered 13 times, reaching over 840 people at various programs, including the statewide urban forestry conference, regional tree association summer conference, and a national Webcast through the U.S. Forest Service Urban Natural Resources Institute. A four-page factsheet on the topic was also just completed.

■ Southeast

Tree Tender Trainings for TreeVitalize

In partnership with the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources TreeVitalize initiative, the Pennsylvania Horticultural Society, and others, 687 people enjoyed 9 hours of hands-on training covering tree biology, planting and care, identification, and community organizing. Participants then pledged to plant more than 1,500 new trees to meet the program goal of increasing tree cover in southeast Pennsylvania. (More than 1,400 trees were planted in the fall). Additionally, at least five participants started new shade tree commissions in their community as a result of the training.

Natural Resource Outreach for Municipal Officials

With \$180,000 in funding from the William Penn Foundation, and in partnership with the Pennsylvania Horticulture Society and Delaware Valley Planning Commission, the Penn State Extension Urban Forestry Program developed a strategy and program for natural resources outreach to senior elected and appointed municipal officials in the five-county Philadelphia region. This effort concentrated on increasing an appreciation for urban trees among elected officials, borough managers, and others to encourage policy and financing that promote natural resource management in municipalities. One hundred twenty-three people representing 60 different municipalities have attended program events, and 11 model municipal projects have been completed.

■ Southwest

Pittsburgh TreeVitalize and Tree Tender Trainings

Pittsburgh TreeVitalize is going strong. Marijke Hecht (former director of the 9-Mile Run Watershed Association) was hired as its coordinator through the Western Pennsylvania Conservancy. The partnership of organizations and agencies is working to utilize the recent U.S. Forest Service (i-TREE) analysis as well as plant trees and educate Tree Tenders. The organization Friends of the Pittsburgh Urban Forest is coordinating the Tree Tender effort contributing to Pittsburgh TreeVitalize. They have offered a number of successful Tree Tender workshops throughout the year that have been filled to capacity. They have also been seeking funding from the foundation community and have established partnerships with the Student Conservation Association, East Liberty Development Corporation, Urban Ecology Collaborative, and many other community-based groups to meet TreeVitalize goals.

Pittsburgh Hires New Urban Forester

The Pittsburgh Shade Tree Commission provided funding to hire an urban forester to work in the Department of City Planning. The position’s primary functions will be to monitor development and redevelopment projects, assure that all tree planting complies with city ordinances, and enforce violations of the city’s tree ordinance. The urban forester is the duty liaison for the TreeVitalize program.