

Michigan

Program Overview

The Michigan Urban and Community Forestry (MUCF) Program serves as a valuable resource to the State's nearly 7.5 million urban residents. The role of the program is to provide broad-based technical, educational, and financial assistance to communities, individuals, and organizations. The result is improved awareness of urban forestry, its practices, and the benefits of managing a sustained and healthy natural resource.

Program Accomplishments

The City of Battle Creek recently completed a 2-year project to create a tree management plan based on community perceptions of local urban forestry needs. The project demonstrated excellent use of community feedback through survey participation, conducted a street tree inventory, identified 1,098 trees in hazardous condition, and established a goal to plant 450 new trees each year to offset annual losses and increase overall tree cover. Together with the Greening of Detroit, the MUCF Program funded the planting of 2,993 trees in 22 communities and 16 schools, involving more than 1,000 volunteers. Additional projects included sponsoring an annual bare-root tree sale (2,450 trees), the TreeKeeper series of workshops for 50 adults, and education programs for nearly 3,000 students.

Since the discovery of Emerald Ash Borer (EAB)—an exotic foreign pest of ash trees—this summer in Southeast Michigan, the MUCF Council has been at the forefront of management- and education-related issues. As part of the advisory council, an EAB subcommittee was developed to address awareness and education needs and identify partners. In November, this committee—the Greening of Detroit—and U.S. Senator Debbie Stabenow hosted a media event in downtown Detroit to draw attention to the issue.

Throughout the year, the MUCF Program funded 11 community forestry grants and provided 6 libraries and nature centers with funding to develop and expand their U&CF reference materials. Two communities conducted tree inventories and over 800 volunteer hours were involved with these projects. As part of Michigan DNR's Cooperative Resource Management Initiative, MUCF provided nearly 300 urban assists for tree planting and technical advice. MUCF has also developed and supported other statewide projects, including the Home Depot Tool Bank and Keep Michigan Beautiful programs. These programs, administered by the volunteer coordinator, provide tools for tree care and planting and provide education for maintaining healthy and sustainable natural resources. More than 20 communities were assisted through these programs in 2002.



Statistical Highlights

Number of participating communities: 510
Number of communities assisted: 362
Number of days of volunteer assistance to program: 4,239
Number of trees planted (trees/seedlings): 8,481/52,000
Number of Tree City USA communities: 78
Number of Tree City USA Growth Awards: 13

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