

Ohio

Program Overview

Ohio's Urban Forestry Program, created in 1979, is a State-supported service of the Ohio Department of Natural Resources, providing organizational and technical urban forestry assistance primarily to community officials and allied agencies. A statewide network of 6 regional urban foresters help communities manage their urban forest resources to meet local needs.

Program Accomplishments

With the consent and support of the city's parks director, the North Canton Urban Forestry Initiative Kickoff Event was held in the City of North Canton. The event, which was the initial step needed to develop and implement a comprehensive tree care program for the community, was a component of Ohio's federally funded Upper Muskingum Watershed Initiative. It was agreed that awareness of the benefits that such an urban forestry program would provide to this community of 15,600 residents would be the key to its long-term success. Dogwood Park, a community recreation center that was damaged by a tornado just a week before the event, was the selected location for the event. Local media were invited to observe 300 middle school students remove debris, mulch playground areas, and plant seedlings. The students and attendees also heard speeches from the mayor, various city council members, and State representatives, expressing their support for an improved quality of life through the full use of their urban forest resources. Seizing on the success of the kickoff event, the parks director provided a followup series of urban forestry public lectures. In addition, monthly guest columns, which addressed various urban forestry topics, appeared in the local newspaper. This urban forestry initiative was a joint effort among various nonprofit groups, local sponsors, city, and State officials. It is hoped that continued public support will lead to an administrative, legislative, and financial commitment for a long-term urban forestry program for the City of North Canton.

For the 20th consecutive year, Ohio was the national leader in the number of Tree City USA communities. Ohio's 222 designated Tree City USA cities and villages demonstrate a continuing commitment to enhancing the quality of life through the proper management of their urban forest resources.



Statistical Highlights

Number of participating communities: 361
Number of communities receiving technical assistance: 361
Number of training hours provided: 17,379
Number of days of volunteer assistance: 6,819
Number of trees planted: 58,374
Number of Tree City USA communities: 222
Number of Tree City USA Growth Awards: 37

Contact

Drew Todd
Urban Forestry Coordinator
Ohio Department of Natural Resources
Division of Forestry
1855 Fountain Square Court, H-1
Columbus, OH 43224-1383
614-265-6707 (phone)
614-447-9231 (fax)
e-mail: drew.todd@dnr.state.oh.us
<http://ohiodnr.com/forestry>