



# Michigan Department of Natural Resources Urban and Community Forestry Program 2023 Accomplishments

The Michigan Department of Natural Resources (DNR) Urban and Community Forestry (UCF) program works with communities to establish and improve local urban forestry programs and provide technical, educational, and financial support. This report highlights some of the key program accomplishments and successes during 2023.

## Looking Back and Looking Ahead

2023 was a historic year for the UCF program, with unprecedented federal investments from the 2021 Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) and the 2022 Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) beginning to hit the ground. Of particular note was \$1.5 billion in IRA funding awarded in 2023 by the USDA Forest Service to increase community access to trees and greenspace. Michigan successfully secured \$40 million from the USDA Forest Service's UCF IRA program with \$32.95 million awarded to Michigan municipalities and organizations for urban forestry projects and \$7.5 million directed to the Michigan DNR's UCF program. More than 80 percent of the DNR's funding will support a competitive grant program focusing on projects that increase the management, care, and planting of trees in under-resourced Michigan communities. The remaining allocation will cover administrative, personnel, and program improvements that will enhance UCF program delivery and efficiency.



*Kerry Gray, IRA Grant Specialist, joined the UCF team in late 2023. This key staff addition helps grow UCF program capacity to deliver assistance statewide.*

Looking ahead, the DNR's UCF program is well-positioned to leverage these historic investments to help enhance and grow tree canopy in communities across Michigan in 2024 and beyond.

## 2023 Accomplishments By the Numbers

**5.4 million** Michigan residents live in communities assisted by the DNR's urban and community forestry program.



**\$521,222** awarded in grants to 42 Michigan communities and organizations.



**16,492 trees** planted with financial support from the DNR's urban and community forestry program.



**14,944 hours** of volunteer labor contributed to Michigan urban and community forestry projects. Valued at \$418,832!



**200% increase** in DNR Urban and Community Forestry Program staff since 2022. Growing from 1 to 3 staff



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Resources, grants, and information on the  
MI Urban Community Forestry Council  
[Mi.gov/UCF](http://Mi.gov/UCF)

## Grants and Funding

### DNR Community Forestry (CFG) Grants

- Awarded 10 subgrants to communities totaling \$199,477.
- 1,254 trees planted, 9 inventories and 13 management plans completed with 2022-23 CFG grant funding.



### DNR UCF Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) Grants & Contracts

- Awarded the first round of sub grants to 10 partners, organizations and communities totaling \$309,090.



### DTE Tree Planting Grants

- Awarded 22 subgrants to communities totaling \$102,545.
- 1,534 trees planted with the 2022-23 DTE grants.



## Mi Trees – Plant a Tree!

1t.org is a global initiative to plant 1 trillion trees worldwide by 2030. To help meet this goal, Michigan has pledged to plant 50 million trees by 2030.

### How are we doing?

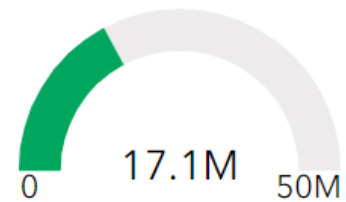


**111,849 trees planted** by communities, organizations & individuals.

### Total Trees Planted

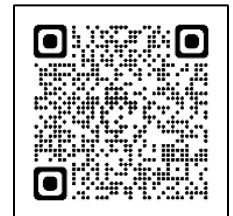


**17 million trees planted** by the Michigan DNR



Goal by 2030

To learn more about the program and to help us reach our goal by adding the trees you have planted to our interactive map, scan the QR code or visit [Michigan.gov/MiTrees](https://Michigan.gov/MiTrees).



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# Tree City USA

Tree City USA Summary



## MICHIGAN

## 2023

**TREE CITY USA**  
An Arbor Day Foundation Program

BY THE NUMBERS

**121**

TREE CITY USA  
COMMUNITIES  
4 NEW

**36%**

OF STATE  
LIVES IN A TREE CITY  
USA COMMUNITY

**98.3%** RECERTIFICATION RATE

LONGEST-RUNNING  
ACTIVE TREE CITY USA  
COMMUNITY:

Adrian Royal Oak

47 YEARS

**\$40,039,014**

SPENT ON  
URBAN FORESTRY  
MANAGEMENT



**\$11.15**  
average per capita



REPORTED NUMBER OF  
TREES PLANTED

**27,913**

**LARGEST**

**Detroit**

POPULATION 620,376

**SMALLEST**

**Northport**

POPULATION 490

**Growth Award**

**13**

Growth Award  
Recipients

LONGEST ACTIVE GROWTH AWARD

**Oak Park**  
21 YEARS

**0**

NEW Growth  
Award Recipients

### BEYOND TREE CITY USA



**10** Recognized  
Michigan Schools

**1** NEWLY  
Recognized Schools



**0** Tree Line USA  
Utilities

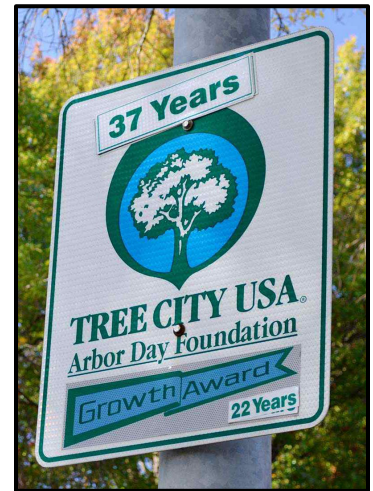


**7** Recognized  
Healthcare Facilities:

**3** NEWLY  
Recognized  
Healthcare Facilities:



Arbor Day  
Foundation



Frankfort resident Beth Olin's art was selected for the city's annual 2023 Tree City poster.  
*Photo credit: Peggy Hawley*



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## Outreach, Engagement & Partnerships

In 2023 the Michigan DNR's Urban and Community Forestry program assisted communities and actively participated in events across the state. These activities raised awareness about Michigan's urban forests, increased knowledge about the community benefits of trees and helped strengthen the capacity of Michigan communities responsible for managing this valuable asset. With 80% of Michigan communities without an urban forestry professional on staff, the DNR UCF program serves as a vital resource for communities and supports the stewardship, sustainability, and resilience of urban forests across the state.

Assisted **278 communities** throughout Michigan.

Reached over **5.4 million Michigan residents** through urban forestry assistance and outreach activities.

**Attended 7** conferences, meetings and events.

**Participated in 9** presentations, trainings, and workshops.

**Exhibited at 9** events.

**Joined 3** new partnerships.



Michigan Inflation Reduction Act Federal Grant Announcement Event in Detroit



DNR's Urban Forest Management Plan Workshop and Training at the DNR's Outdoor Adventure Center.



UCF Program staff participating in an outreach event.



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