

Michigan Department of Natural Resources

2022 Urban and Community Forestry Program Annual Report



The Michigan DNR's Urban and Community Forestry Program has worked with communities since 1992 to establish and improve local urban forestry initiatives and administer grant funding to support those efforts. This report highlights key accomplishments from 2022.

Grants and funding

DTE Tree Planting Grants

Awarded 33 communities \$105,675 total from the partnership for new trees.

\$105,675

DNR Community Forestry Grants

Awarded 24 communities \$238,590 total for tree planning, planting and care.

\$238,590

Detroit Tree Equity Partnership

Secured \$485,000 in federal funding with partners to support tree planting in underserved Detroit neighborhoods.

\$485,000



Dr. Dowtin, Michigan State University.

Partnerships

- Represented the Michigan DNR on the multi-agency Detroit Tree Equity Partnership, an initiative to increase tree canopy cover and improve tree care in underserved Detroit neighborhoods.
- Renewed 5-year [Partnership for Ecosystem Research and Management](#) agreement with Michigan State University Forestry Department, supporting Dr. Asia Dowtin's work to advance teaching, research and extension in urban forestry.
- Collaborated with Michigan DNR's Parks and Recreation Division and the Arboriculture Society of Michigan Foundation to continue [restoration of the Belle Isle Park Sawmill](#).



Detroit Tree Equity partners aim to increase tree planting.



The historic Belle Isle Sawmill, under restoration.

Tree City USA programs

- 126 communities, four new, met Tree City USA program standards for community tree efforts completed in 2021 and became certified in 2022.
- Certified nine college campuses and two healthcare institutions as achieving Tree Campus Higher Education and Healthcare status.
- 36% of Michigan's population lives in a certified Tree City.
- Michigan's Tree City communities spent an average of \$12.96 per capita on tree care and related activities.



TREE CITY USA®

An Arbor Day Foundation Program



Lawrence Sobson, DNR Urban Forester.

Capacity, outreach and engagement

- Welcomed Urban Forestry and Partnership Coordinator Lawrence Sobson, based in Detroit, to the UCF program.
- A weekly program providing municipal, homeowner and community audiences with urban and community forestry information reached 17,272 subscribers, an increase of over 2,000 from 2021. [Sign up for DNR newsletters.](#)
- Participated in 11 outreach events throughout the state.
- Recorded 14,333 volunteer hours through supported community projects.
- Served 5,384,503 people in Michigan communities through educational, technical and/or financial assistance.

By the numbers

- Recorded 68,437 trees planted by communities in the [MI Trees application](#), tracking progress toward the DNR's 50M tree planting goal created in partnership with the global 1T.org effort.
- Planted 500 new shade trees in seven Southeast Michigan communities through a Great Lakes Restoration Initiative grant.
- Partnered to complete two economic impact studies of urban forestry sector contributions to Michigan.
 - [Arbor Day Foundation study](#)
 - [Northeast-Midwest State Foresters Alliance study](#)
- Documented Michigan's \$2.5 billion urban and community forestry sector annual economic contributions, which support more than 27,000 jobs.



Arbor Day tree planting event, Lansing.



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News, grants and data
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