



Community Canopy

Michigan's Urban and Community Forestry Newsletter

Fall 2009

Coming Soon! MI Community Tree Ordinance Database

The Michigan DNR Urban Forestry program and state Urban and Community Forestry Council are developing an online directory of tree ordinances from communities around the state. Once complete, the directory will be posted on the DNR's UCF program website www.mi.gov/dnrucf.

The hope is that communities looking to create or modify their local ordinance will be able to quickly search for relevant items and language from other communities around the state.

We are still looking for electronic versions of community tree ordinances. Feel free to contact either Kevin Sayers (517.241.4632 sayersk@mi.gov) or Ada Takacs (989.275.5151 x 2049 takacs@mi.gov) to find out if we have your most current version on file.

Severe Ice Storms

Severe ice storms occur every year in the United States and Canada, particularly in the Midwestern and eastern regions of the United States. Along with fires and wind, ice storms are a frequent and major natural disturbance factor in eastern deciduous forests. Likewise ice storms are responsible for deaths and injuries of people and cause dramatic damage and tree loss to urban forests. Ice storms annually result in millions of dollars in losses and potentially more in extreme and widespread events. Damage to electric distribution systems, blocked roadways, and property damage from fallen trees and limbs pose safety concerns and disrupt normal community functions.

Tree species vary in their resistance to ice accumulation. Certain characteristics, such as weak branch junctures indicated by included bark, dead and decaying branches, a broad crown, and fine branching, increase a tree's susceptibility to ice storm damage.

Planting a diverse urban forest that includes trees resistant to ice storms and performing regular tree maintenance to avoid or remove structural weaknesses will reduce damage.

Ice storm frequency and severity within the eastern United States necessitates the incorporation of ice storm information into the urban forestry planning process. While we cannot stop ice storms from occurring, we can take steps to reduce the impact of this major forest disturbance on urban forests and the interface between forests, buildings, and infrastructure.

View the full report on-line with photos, graphs and species list of ice storm resistant trees: www.na.fs.fed.us/urban/inforesources/TreesIceStorms2ed.pdf

Stormwater Management Cost Comparison: Green Infrastructure vs. Traditional Combined Sewer Overflow

The City of Philadelphia Water Department (PWD) is considering a wide array of options for controlling Combined Sewer Overflow (CSO) events in its four relevant watershed areas. The options range from traditional infrastructure-based approaches (e.g., storage tunnels) to more innovative “green infrastructure” approaches based largely on Low Impact Development elements (e.g., tree planting, permeable pavement, green roofs). PWD is especially interested in gaining a more complete understanding of the Triple Bottom Line (TBL) implications of the green and traditional infrastructure approaches in terms of their respective ability to provide environmental, social, public health, and other values. Accordingly, this report provides a TBL-oriented benefit-cost assessment of the CSO control alternatives under consideration by PWD. The focus here is on the benefits and external costs of the alternatives. Ultimately, the TBL benefit results from this report, and the engineering cost information from Camp, Dresser and McKee, will be combined to provide insights as to the estimated net benefits of the alternatives.

For more information, visit:

www.michigan.gov/documents/dnr/TBL.AssessmentGreenVsTraditionalStormwaterMgt_293337_7.pdf

Storm Runoff Threatens Rivers and Lakes

By Barbara McMillan, DES Watershed Outreach Coordinator

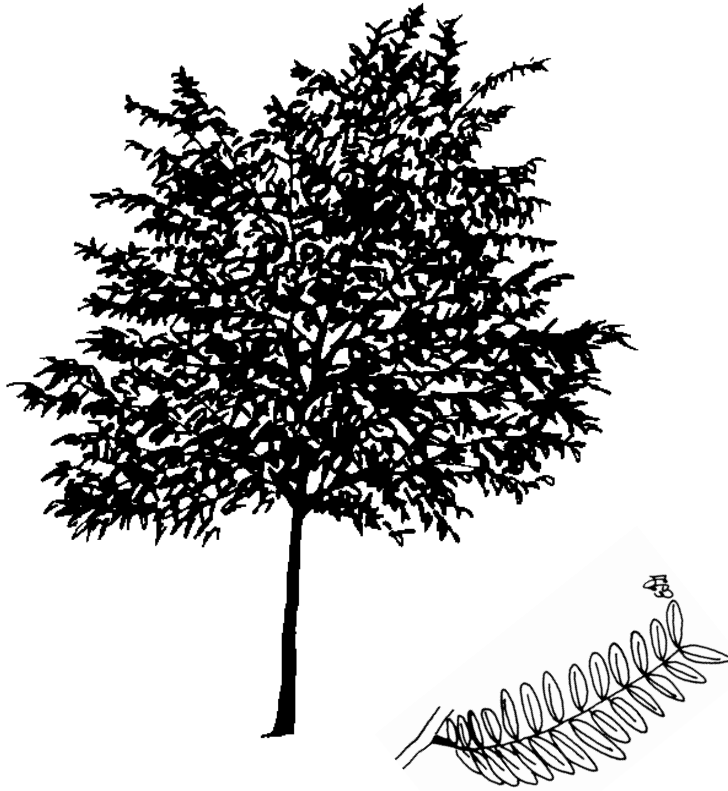
Extreme storms can damage homes and communities through flooding, high winds and soil erosion. While it’s easy to see fallen trees, flooded streets and washed-out riverbanks, there can also be hidden damage to rivers and lakes.



Through the natural water cycle, rain falls to the ground and flows across the land, soaks into the ground, or is taken up by plant roots. The water that flows across the land eventually finds its way to a river or lake. A disruption or change in the movement of water on the surface can seriously degrade water quality.

When a town or neighborhood expands, plants and trees are replaced with roads, rooftops, driveways and parking areas. Rain that falls on these surfaces can no longer soak into the ground, resulting in increased water flowing over the land. Often there is not enough vegetation to slow the flow of water. Developed areas generate a greater amount of overland flow, delivering water to rivers and lakes in a shorter amount of time. Substances on paved surfaces, such as dirt, automobile fluids, road salt, pet waste and fertilizers, are carried along with the water.

For information about ways to reduce impacts to rivers and lakes in all types of weather, review “Best Management Practices to Reduce Nonpoint Source Pollution: A Guide to Citizens and Town Officials” at www.des.nh.gov/organization/divisions/water/stormwater/bmp_runoff.htm



Honeylocust (*Gleditsia triacanthos*)

Mature height: 50 to 75 feet

Spread: 35 to 50 feet

Crown: oval; round; irregular outline or silhouette

Growth rate: fast

Leaf arrangement: alternate

Light: grows in part shade/sun or full sun

Soil tolerances: Clay; loam; sand; acidic; occasionally wet; alkaline; well-drained

Drought tolerance: high

Aerosol salt tolerance: high

Roots: surface roots can lift sidewalks or interfere with mowing

Start Planning Your 2010 Arbor Day event now!

The Michigan Arbor Day Alliance (MADA) is a coalition of organizations and agencies dedicated to the promotion and celebration of Arbor Day throughout Michigan. Our dedication comes from our belief in the importance of trees and their role in community health and well-being.

To help spread awareness about trees and environmental stewardship, MADA has launched a new membership program for 2009. Individuals are offered varying levels of membership. Join our efforts for as little as \$10.00! By becoming a member you are demonstrating your commitment to environmental education and conserving Michigan's natural resources.

The membership funds we raise will be used to help MADA grow in a variety of ways:

- Travelling Poster Contest Exhibit
- Sponsor Environmental Education Workshops
- Community Tree Planting
- Enriched Education Materials
- Keeping Michigan Green

Visit our website to become a member, www.miarbordayalliance.com/donate.html

In an effort to expand the celebration of Arbor Day, MADA teamed up with Downtown Lansing businesses to supply members of the community with free seedlings and education materials—more than 200 seedlings were given away!

Michigan State University Federal Credit Union recently launched a promotion in which they donate \$1.00 to MADA for every customer who switches to e-statements. With this money, MADA will plant trees in the Greater Lansing Area. It is estimated that MADA will plant 50 trees depending on size. Tree planting is scheduled to take place September through October.

DNR Announces Arbor Day Mini Grant Applications Now Available!

The Department of Natural Resources is now accepting applications for the 2009-10 Arbor Day Mini Grant Program. The program is administered by the DNR's Urban and Community Forestry program with funding from the USDA Forest Service, State and Private Forestry.

The purpose of the Arbor Day Mini Grant program is to highlight Arbor Day and the role that trees and forests play in our everyday lives. Grants of up to \$200 may be requested for planting trees on public property, hosting an Arbor Day celebration or purchasing natural resource-related materials for libraries.

Local units of government (city, county, township, and village), public educational institutions (K-12, college, and university), public libraries, nonprofit organizations, and tribal governments are eligible to apply. Applications must be received by Nov. 16, 2009.

Fifty grants will be awarded through a random selection process. All grants require matching funds equal to the awarded amount. Matching funds may include cash contributions or in-kind services, but may not include federal funds. Grant money will be paid upon project completion. Grant projects must be completed by June 30, 2010.

The first Arbor Day was celebrated in Nebraska on April 10, 1872. Its founder, J. Sterling Morton, had a love of trees that he developed during his upbringing in Michigan. He missed the vibrant array of trees and forests in Michigan and so he championed a tree planting holiday to help replant trees that had been cleared in Nebraska for building materials, fuel and firewood. Arbor Day was first celebrated in Michigan in 1885 and has continued to be celebrated each year since. Michigan annually celebrates Arbor Day on the last Friday in April.

For more information or to obtain a grant application, contact Kevin Sayers, at 517-241-4632, or visit the DNR Web site at www.michigan.gov/dnrucf.

****Reminder** 2009 Tree City/Line/Campus USA applications Due December 31, 2009**

Communities, utilities and colleges/universities wishing to be certified or recertified under The Arbor Day Foundation's annual Tree City/Line and Campus USA programs must submit their applications to the DNR by the end of the year.

These programs are an important form of recognition that demonstrates your commitment to tree care and management for the citizens, customers and students that you serve. In 2008, Michigan had 119 communities, 4 utilities and 2 campuses certified in their respective programs.

For application forms or to find out more, please visit www.mi.gov/dnrucusa or contact Kevin Sayers at 517.241.4632 or sayersk@mi.gov

AMERICAN FORESTS Announces America's Historic Tree Register

Washington DC – American Forests is asking the public to go online this summer/fall and nominate their favorite tree for a place on America's Historic Tree Register. This newly created Register will showcase historically and culturally significant trees, in addition to spotlighting trees that have played notable roles in an individual's life, such as one planted by an ancestor or those climbed as a child.

Trees can be nominated on americanforests.org starting July 4, 2009 and can be entered into one of 5 categories:

- Historic trees – trees associated with a historic or cultural event
- Famous people – trees associated with historical, cultural, literary, or artistic figures
- Places – trees associated with historic locations and famous attractions
- Age – trees that are remarkably old
- Unique – trees that are unusual in size, shape, or growing range, have survived through difficult circumstances, or are significant in folklore.

The nominated tree will be published in the Register if its description qualifies for one of the five categories and has supporting documents. If a nominated tree does not qualify for the category, or cannot be authenticated, then it will be listed as a Personal Tree. This separate category is a part of the Historic Tree Program, but not of the official Register. It will include any tree that has a significant meaning to an individual, providing a forum for anyone to share the story of their special tree.

Trees selected for the Register may also be propagated, and the seedlings sold by American Forests' Historic Tree Program, so that anyone can share these living pieces of history. The Historic Tree Program's nursery brings history alive by providing the offspring of trees connected to famous people, events, and places. America's Historic Tree Register is a project steeped in American Forests' history.

For more information, visit: <http://www.americanforests.org/htr/>

Tool Shed

Links to Forestry tools on-line

What tree is that? is a new, 150-page pocket-sized book from the Arbor Day Foundation. It combines previous tree identification keys for eastern and western U.S. into a single publication that includes nearly 300 trees. The key is easy to follow and the book is richly illustrated. Sales began in April and an online version is available at:

www.arborday.org/trees/whattree

Urban Forestry/Arboriculture

Don't forget to check out the Michigan DNR's Urban and Community Forestry website for relevant research, survey and reports documents. New items are being added all the time. Visit the Reports/Research and Surveys link at www.mi.gov/dnrucf

National Tree Benefit Calculator

Conceived and developed by Casey Trees and The Davey Tree Expert Co., the Tree Benefit Calculator allows anyone to make a simple estimation of the benefits individual street-side trees provide. This tool is based on i-Tree's street tree assessment tool called STRATUM. With inputs of location, species and tree size, users will get an understanding of the environmental and economic value trees provide on an annual basis.

A very useful tool you can use to communicate tangible dollars and cents value of tree benefits when meeting with local officials and decision makers. Check it out online at:

www.davey.com/cms/cus/f94711556cbd4c7b/treecalculator.html

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Planning and Financing Future Urban Forests

- A Capital Asset Hybrid Proposal

The long term cost-benefits of urban forests justify their management as an essential element of urban infrastructure. However, because trees are not classified as capital assets in formal governmental accounting procedures, most jurisdictions do not provide adequate long-term financing for trees as they would other infrastructure such as roads, buildings, and other capital items. This paper suggests a long term financing program that mimics a capital improvement program, and thus provides an alternative tool for long term urban forest management. www.michigan.gov/documents/dnr/Planning_and_Financing_the_Urban_Forest_2854097.pdf

Shoehorning Parks Into Cities

From Boston to Seattle, cities are finding ways to create parks in untraditional places. Amid new high-rises, parking lots, and shopping malls, cities are reclaiming space for parks once occupied by factories, railyards, and airports. Parks are sharing space with schoolyards and cemeteries and being built atop roofs and reservoirs. A new paper from Peter Harnik, director of TPL's Center for City Park Excellence, tells the story of these "Shoehorn Parks." Originally published in the May 2009 issue of Landscape Architecture Magazine, the paper previews Harnik's book on creating parks in cities, due for release in Spring 2010.

Download the full article here:

http://contacts.tpl.org/site/R?i=PmcFMGZqO9srNWEJNUf_9g

Read the latest park-related news at www.cityparksblog.org, the blog chronicling trends, best practices and ideas concerning urban parks around the country and beyond.

Portland, OR Neighborhood Writes the Book on Sustainability

Portland State University students produced a Neighborhood Climate Action Planning Handbook titled "Southeast Sustainability" intended to be a resource for neighborhood groups interested in reducing their carbon footprint. This document tells how to take action on issues such as energy and land use, mobility, waste, urban forestry and stormwater management and is filled with block-level examples.

<http://actrees.org/files/Research/nhoodclimatehandbook.pdf>

Reduce Runoff: Slow it Down, Spread it Out, Soak it in Video

The US Environmental Protection Agency and the US Botanic Garden produced this online video that highlights green techniques such as rain gardens, green roofs, and rain barrels to help manage stormwater runoff. The video showcases green techniques being used in urban areas to reduce the effects of stormwater runoff on the quality of water received downstream. Watch the video at: www.epa.gov/owow/nps/lid/video.html

Tree Space Design: Growing the Tree Out of the Box

This new report from Casey Trees, which includes design recommendations to provide adequate soils volume for street trees, has received an award from local chapters of the American Society of Landscape Architects (ASLA). "Tree Space Design: Growing the Tree Out of the Box" presents soil volume recommendations and root-friendly design methods intended to yield larger, healthier trees, while minimizing damage to paved surfaces. The full tree space design report is available online at

www.caseytrees.org/planning/design-resources/for-designers/tree-space/documents/Tree_Space_Design_lowres.pdf

Gardening with Good Bugs

The US Botanic Garden, The Nature Conservancy, and the National Park Service have collaborated on a brochure and wallet guide on invasive plants and non-invasive alternatives, with a focus on the Mid-Atlantic region. *Terrestrial Invasive Plants of the Potomac River Watershed* is a brochure with color sketches, life history, and identifying characteristics as well as removal tips for many common invasive plants of the Northeastern United States. It can be downloaded from [www.usbg.gov/plant-collections/conservation/upload/Potomac Invasives wallet card.pdf](http://www.usbg.gov/plant-collections/conservation/upload/Potomac_Invasives_wallet_card.pdf)

Urban and Community Forestry Council Members:

Michigan Dept of Natural Resources USDA Forest Service

N. Carpenter, **Arboriculture Society of MI**
R. Gentry, **City of Adrian**
J. Adams, **City of Cadillac**
J. Dunmire, **City of Warren**
T. Abramson, **Delta County ISD**
vacant – Nature Center/Arboretum
T. Kennedy, **Great Lakes Energy**

R. Salminen-Witt, **Greening of Detroit**
P. Blough, **Landscape Architect**
B. Lawrence, **Lawrence Arbor Care**
B. Cregg, **Michigan State University**
B. Bricault, **MSU Extension**
M. Baeckeroot, **Oakland Community College**
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M. Cahill, **Global ReLeaf of MI**

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