

# NEW HAMPSHIRE'S URBAN AND COMMUNITY FORESTRY 5-YEAR PROGRAM PLAN

FY 2000 Through FY 2004



New Hampshire Community Forestry Advisory Council

in cooperation with the

State of New Hampshire  
Department of Resources and Economic Development  
Division of Forests and Lands

and the

University of New Hampshire Cooperative Extension  
Forestry and Wildlife Program

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# NEW HAMPSHIRE'S URBAN and COMMUNITY FORESTRY PROGRAM

## MISSION

The mission of New Hampshire's Urban and Community Forestry Program is to promote the stewardship of urban and rural forest landscapes to enhance the quality of life in New Hampshire communities.

## GENERAL SITUATION

New Hampshire is predominately rural, but with a population gain of 6.8% from 1990 to 1998, it is the fastest growing state in the Northeast. Urban and suburban areas are growing. It is estimated that between 1998 and 2020, the state's population will grow by more than 340,000 people.

This increased growth has come at the expense of forest cover, down from a high of 87% to 84% today. Forest cover is expected to decline to 80% in 2020. The greatest growth and loss of forest cover will be in southeastern New Hampshire, in Rockingham, Strafford, and Hillsborough counties. This development of forests has diminished resources, such as clean air and water, aesthetic surroundings, outdoor places, and space, that improve people's lives.

Urban and Community Forestry is the management of trees and related natural resources in populated areas, from the inner city to the developing urban fringe to within small communities. Community forests and city trees are necessary to maintain the quality of life in towns, cities and rural neighborhoods.

Backyard forests, street trees, and public parks and forest lands are important components of community ecosystems and economies. A vital part of the state's forest resource base, forests in urban and community settings can be managed for a variety of benefits. Those same trees and forests can also serve as educational sites where school children and the non-landowning public find opportunities to learn about forests. Local land use planning plays a critical role in conserving forests in communities. The impact of local land use decisions are equally important where concentrations of urban and community development mix with forests.

Through public awareness, community networking, education of natural resource professionals, volunteers, and technical assistance, the Urban and Community Forestry program will emphasize urban ecosystem benefits, such as ameliorating sound, improving heating and cooling, contributing to cleaner air, and providing urban outdoor spaces.

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**"For the majority of citizens who live in urban and suburban settings, trees in their communities and neighborhoods have a significant effect on their quality of life."**

*Forest Resources Plan  
Assessment Report*

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# **COMMUNITY FORESTRY ADVISORY COUNCIL**

## **PURPOSE AND SCOPE**

In the interest of public involvement, a Community Forestry Advisory Council (CFAC) is established as a subcommittee of the New Hampshire Forest Advisory Board (NHFAB). The role of the CFAC is to work in partnership with the Division of Forests and Lands - Department of Resources and Economic Development (DRED), UNH Cooperative Extension (UNHCE) and other state agencies to serve as a focused source of public input to improve the information base influencing management decisions relative to the delivery of New Hampshire's Urban and Community Forestry Program.

## **COMMITTEE MEMBER PARTICIPATION**

Pursuant to RSA 227-I:5, CFAC members are appointed by the Director of the Division of Forests and Lands. Membership of the CFAC shall consist of fifteen members having broad based representation from government agencies, industry, non-governmental organizations, and volunteers concerned with community forestry issues in New Hampshire. Members of the CFAC shall serve two year terms, but no more than three terms. At least one member of CFAC shall be a member of the NHFAB. The U.S. Forest Service representative will be a non-voting member of the CFAC. The CFAC shall meet twice a year, once in the spring and once in the fall.

## **COMMITTEE OBJECTIVES**

Provide advice, suggestions, and guidance in an advisory capacity to those who develop and implement New Hampshire's Urban and Community Forestry Program.

Provide opportunities for public input regarding the ongoing New Hampshire Urban and Community Forestry Program.

Promote communication and understanding of New Hampshire's Urban and Community Forestry Program issues.

Assist in building partnerships among all groups interested in New Hampshire's Urban and Community Forestry Program.

Promote outreach into all communities and assure program implementation that reflects cultural diversity.

Assist in the development and implementation of other activities that advance urban and community forestry in New Hampshire.

Keep informed and involved in current legislative and funding initiatives as they affect community trees.

## **EXAMPLE DUTIES**

Assist with the ongoing "New Hampshire Urban and Community Forestry - Five Year Program Plan", monitoring efforts and periodic review and comment on the plan;

Review and comment on urban and community forestry work plans of cosponsors to ensure that New Hampshire's Urban and Community Forestry Program is implemented;

Review and comment on New Hampshire's Urban and Community Forestry Program accomplishments at least annually to assess achievements;

Sponsor public information meetings and assist with the distribution of information for public consumption and comment;

## **COMMITTEE CHAIR**

A member of the CFAC shall be appointed committee chair for a 2-year term. The committee chair shall: 1) receive correspondence from the public directed to the CFAC and take action after consultation with the CFAC and Implementation Team, 2) draft letters from the CFAC, 3) help set meeting agendas and schedules, 4) run CFAC meetings, and 5) ensure a quorum is present at meetings where decisions are accepted as the action or opinion of the committee.

## **IMPLEMENTATION TEAM**

An Implementation Team shall consist of the Administrator, Forest Information and Planning Bureau - Division of Forests and Lands, Extension Forestry Specialist - UNH Cooperative Extension, Community Forestry Coordinator - Division of Forests and Lands, Community Forestry Volunteer Coordinator - UNH Cooperative Extension, and CFAC chair. The purpose of the Implementation Team shall be to: 1) promote cooperation and coordination between the CFAC and the public, 2) assist with coordination of outside expertise and resources, 3) set meeting agendas and schedules, and 4) assist the CFAC chair with the duties of the position.

## **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

CFAC meetings will be open to the public and space will be provided for them apart from seated committee members. Public notice of meetings will be made in accordance with RSA 91-A Right-To-Know Law. Opportunity will be provided at the end of each meeting for interested individuals to speak before, or submit statements to the CFAC. In addition, there may be opportunities for public comment during agenda discussions if the CFAC desires. The public is encouraged to submit proposals or issues for discussion in writing in advance of the meeting. The CFAC is not obligated to discuss proposals immediately but may defer discussion in order to give members opportunity to review the proposal. Records, reports, working papers, and other documents prepared and/or used by the CFAC will be made available to the public in accordance with RSA 91-A. The CFAC will periodically reassess its public participation strategy.

## **REPORTING**

The CFAC shall prepare a report for the New Hampshire Forest Advisory Board annually or whenever deemed necessary. The report shall be in a written format and shall be submitted to NHFAB through the Office of the Director, Division of Forests and Lands.

## PLAN DEVELOPMENT

New Hampshire's Urban and Community Forestry Plan was built upon a strong foundation of public input. The plan reflects the current needs and opportunities in the state. Comparing this plan with plans in the past, one can see similarities, a maturing of some programs and a responsiveness to an overwhelming need to address land use issues at the community level. With the close relationship that New Hampshire people have with their trees, current fears among the public about the loss of natural areas in the state, media attention to urban sprawl and an emerging thirst for knowledge among community leaders, committees and boards, we are in a time of opportunity for the Urban and Community Forestry Program. There is also a sense of urgency being felt by many in New Hampshire about doing the right things to save our community character. The State Forester's office and the UNH Cooperative Extension have the expertise and infrastructure to respond effectively to meet the public need and demands. With continued and enhanced funding, the Urban and Community Forestry Program can make an important and lasting impact on the natural character of New Hampshire communities.

This is a partial list of the public input which helped to guide the development of the New Hampshire Urban and Community Strategic Plan:

The New Hampshire Forest Resource Plan was developed in a year-long process that included the cross section of public and private natural resource interests in New Hampshire. Around the table were representatives of communities, public agencies, private conservation organizations, environmental activists, forest industries, academics, landowners and Extension. Community forestry, as well as rural forestry, issues were addressed. The plan was shared with the public in listening sessions around the state and was modified accordingly before being presented to the governor. The New Hampshire Forest Resource Plan helped guide the development of the New Hampshire Urban and Community Forestry Plan draft for review by the New Hampshire Community Forestry Advisory Council. The New Hampshire Forest Resource Plan was a key component in the development of the UNH Cooperative Extension Forestry and Wildlife Plan of Work for fiscal years 2000 through 2004.

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**There is a sense of urgency being felt by many in New Hampshire about doing the right things to save our community character.**

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The Division of Forests and Lands and UNH Cooperative Extension have a network of people in communities across the state. These natural resource professionals are closely connected with community leaders in every county. They have their eyes and ears open to public concerns and opportunities that currently exist relating to community forestry in New Hampshire. The input from the Division and Extension staff play a vital role in the development of the draft New Hampshire Urban and Community Forestry Plan.

UNH Cooperative Extension has an advisory council in each of the ten New Hampshire counties. Extension staff and the advisory councils worked together to identify pressing needs in New Hampshire, including natural resource areas, agriculture, water resources, youth, families and communities. High on the list were assistance to communities and the issue of protecting and conserving land, water and open space. The results of this locally-based process went to the State Extension Advisory Council. The result was a plan of work with four

main goals. One of these goals is to *Strengthen New Hampshire Communities*. Another is to *Protect and Conserve Land, Water and Open Space*. These issues were incorporated into the draft New Hampshire Urban and Community Forestry Plan. It has led to an increased emphasis on community planning to protect and enhance the natural character of New Hampshire's communities and to conserve open space in our communities.

Communities in every New Hampshire county have participated in a *Community Profile*. This process engages citizens in determining the pressing issues in their community and puts them on a self-guided track to addressing their needs. Extension has been on the front lines in these profiles. We have witnessed that in most of the communities, land use issues such as loss of open space, rank among the top three in importance and is often the number one issue. The message has been clear that in New Hampshire communities, managing growth to address the degradation of the community's natural character ranks very high.

In 1990, New Hampshire's governor established a *Governor's Task Force on Community Trees*. The development and implementation of the action plan for this effort brought insights and experience regarding community forestry needs, priorities and practices. The task force initiative has been a valuable component in the formulation and update of the Urban and Community Forestry Plan draft. The task force engaged public and private individuals and groups from around the state. It increases the quantity and quality of citizen input into the plan development.

A *Governor's Forest Industry Task Force* clearly pointed to the need for enhanced community and forest industry relationships. Working in concert, these entities can more effectively integrate environmental issues with sound economic practices.

*The New Hampshire Comparative Risk Project* was an objective study to identify the concerns of New Hampshire people about their environment. Clearly, the loss of open space in New Hampshire communities ranked among the highest concern. Data from this lengthy, citizen-based, comprehensive report served as a basis for community needs which the New Hampshire Urban and Community Forestry Plan should address.

The New Hampshire Division of Forests and Lands and UNH Cooperative Extension work with individual communities, including population centers such as Berlin, Laconia, Concord, Manchester, Dover, Somersworth, Rochester and Portsmouth. Community leader input is an essential component. Experiences learned in one community are transferred to other communities, including through the Urban and Community Forestry Program. Staff work closely with the New Hampshire Association of Conservation Commissions, providing community-based input on natural resource issues. Land use planning, smart growth, conservation of New Hampshire's natural character, scenic roads and open space are top issues.

For almost a decade, the New Hampshire Division of Forests and Lands and UNH Cooperative Extension have partnered with the Society for the Protection of New Hampshire Forests in an urban forestry program. Funds were provided to the Society to coordinate an urban forestry effort in the most populated part of the state. The Society provided outstanding insights regarding the direction in which New Hampshire's Urban and Community Forestry Program should go. This included a systematic expansion of the program in New Hampshire's "golden triangle," the populated area along the Merrimack River corridor, volunteer training sites in the seacoast and south central portions of the state, and an increased emphasis in the area of

assisting communities with problems related to growth and the community environment. They reluctantly determined that to target the highest priority needs, the program would need to curtail the summer Community Forestry Youth Camp. The Society is encouraging programs such as the Urban and Community Forestry Program to work to protect community drinking water supply sources. Currently 88% of the sources for community public drinking water are not protected. The Urban and Community Forestry Program is well suited to address this concern. The Society's input addresses issues which are long-term and critical to New Hampshire's quality of life. The Division of Forests and Lands and Extension receive similar input from other private conservation organizations, including the Audubon Society of New Hampshire, the New Hampshire Timberland Owners Association, the New Hampshire Wildlife Federation and several land trusts.

The Division and Extension receive input to formulate plans from state and federal public agencies. The U.S. Forest Service has been a long-time close partner. New Hampshire is fortunate to have the seven-state Forest Services Field Office located at the UNH campus, mid-way between the Division's Concord office and the Urban Forestry Center in Portsmouth. Forest Service staff have been readily available to provide advice on programming and assistance in program delivery. Urban forestry professionals at the field office have helped guide our program to be "community" oriented rather than "urban" oriented. This has led us to be more inclusive of the array of community concerns and opportunities that we encounter in the rapidly growing Northeast. Other agencies that the Division and Extension collaborate with to develop programs are the USDA Natural Resource Conservation Service, Resource Conservation and Development Areas, Conservation Districts, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, New Hampshire Fish and Game Department and the New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services.

Both the Division and Extension are a part of the State Conservation Committee. This provides a vehicle for exchange of information about programs among state conservation agencies. This adds coordination and reduces duplication when formulating plans such as the Urban and Community Forestry Plan.

Regional Planning Commissions have provided increased guidance to the Division, Extension and communities. Their findings as a result of GIS technology have put community planning in high gear in New Hampshire. It has helped focus citizen input and community leader action with regard to community natural areas.

Recent initiatives in working with communities and landowners collectively have provided new insights for the New Hampshire Urban and Community Forestry program. New Hampshire people and communities have been known forever for their independence. Landmark work has been done with significant accomplishments which have brought communities together for common purposes. Greenways have been established, the most notable being the Bear Paw initiative. Other efforts are underway and certainly, such efforts warrant inclusion in the New Hampshire Urban and Community Forestry Plan.

## **PROGRAM OPERATIONS AND ADMINISTRATION**

### **FORESTS AND LANDS RELATIONSHIP WITH UNH COOPERATIVE EXTENSION**

New Hampshire's communities are fortunate to have the horsepower of both the State Forester's office and the Land Grant University's Extension staff tackling urban and community issues. This close relationship between the New Hampshire Division of Forests and Lands and the University of New Hampshire is quite unique in the country. The joint delivery of U. S. Forest Service - State and Private Forestry programs began in 1925 and has demonstrated the advantages of having a strong mix of outreach, technical assistance, education, and local involvement in programs.

New Hampshire's Urban and Community Forestry Program works thru a long term partnership between the New Hampshire Division of Forests and Lands and the University of New Hampshire Cooperative Extension. Staff from both organizations, working together to provide a cohesive program of public awareness, community networking, volunteerism, and resource professionals for the entire state.

The Administrator, Forest Information and Planning Bureau, represents the Director (State Forester) Division of Forests and Lands, in matters concerning urban forestry and other associated programs as they are directly related to the overall statewide mission of the Division of Forests and Lands.

The Division of Forests and Lands provides leadership thru a full-time Community Forestry Coordinator located at its Urban Forestry Center in Portsmouth, the Shieling Forest in Peterborough, and staff in Concord, by presenting information and education programs on community forestry issues, assisting with the training and implementation of the Community Tree Steward Program, and furnishing technical assistance and training to natural resource professionals and communities.

The University of New Hampshire Cooperative Extension is an educational network connecting University knowledge and research to people throughout New Hampshire. Extension Specialists based in Durham and Extension Educators in each of the 10 counties of the state offer both scientific information and technical assistance to communities. In every city and town this program is at work teaching New Hampshire residents about the critical issues of today.

Cooperative Extension brings a cadre of professionals to the State Forester with an Extension Educator - Forestry and Wildlife located in every New Hampshire county. Each of these Extension Educators are well-known and connected in their communities. They are recognized as a source of unbiased information and education on the full range of urban and community topics. Each of these individuals has continuing professional development to strengthen their knowledge base of community forestry issues. They all have Community Forestry in their plans of work. These plans of work cover the same 5-year period that this New Hampshire Urban and Community Forestry Program Plan covers.

UNH Cooperative Extension provides a Community Forestry Volunteer Coordinator, strategically placed in the most urban part of the state. A third of the people of New Hampshire reside in the county where this full time person is located. Her office is located at UNH Manchester, in the state's largest city. There are Extension Specialists and Program Assistants in the Extension Forestry and Wildlife Program who contribute significantly to the Community Forestry Program. In addition, the Extension connection brings with it a large staff of well-qualified professionals in agricultural resources, family programs and youth programs. The best ornamental horticulturists in Extension are available to the U. S. Forest Service State and Private Community Forestry Program. One of these individuals served for many years as Chair of the New Hampshire Community Tree Team, guiding Extension's programs in Community Forestry.

The close relationship between the New Hampshire Division of Forests and Lands and Extension is anchored in New Hampshire statute and is kept alive by a memorandum of understanding, renewed periodically. This relationship can serve as a model for other states to best coordinate, utilize and focus the resources in their states.

## **NORTHEAST CENTER FOR URBAN AND COMMUNITY FORESTRY**

The Northeast Center for Urban and Community Forestry, established in 1996, is a cooperative partnership among the Northeastern Area State and Private Forestry, the University of Massachusetts, and the seven states of New England and New York. Two other regional centers are located in Chicago, Illinois and Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

The Center's mission is to respond to urban and community forestry information needs, facilitate and support new and existing research, and coordinate the exchange of information among the states in order to contribute to healthy sustainable communities.

The Center's goals are: (1) to assist state Urban and Community Forestry programs by focusing on common information needs, services, and research. (2) to provide a point of access for research, information, and technology relating to urban and rural communities. (3) to foster community participation and volunteerism in the stewardship of healthy sustainable communities. (4) to support partnerships among federal, state, and local officials, green industry and utility professionals and volunteer groups.

## **PROGRAM FACILITIES**

For such a small state, New Hampshire has an exceptional number of facilities which are available to provide outreach and technical assistance in Urban and Community Forestry. In addition to the main office of the NH Division of Forests and Lands, the following facilities play a role in the program.

**Concord Office** - The Division of Forests and Lands is one of four division's within the Department of Resources and Economic Development, that includes the Division of Parks and Recreation, the Division of Economic Development, and the Division of Travel and Tourism.

Urban Forestry Center, Portsmouth - Located on a historic site in Portsmouth, New Hampshire, the Center has an outstanding meeting facility, an ideal site for local, statewide or multi-state conferences. Located on 170 acres, the Center serves as a demonstration area as well as offering series of lectures and educational and training programs for the public and targeted groups. It is owned by the state and managed by the Division of Forests and Lands.

**County Extension Offices** - Located in every New Hampshire County, each office is staffed with an Extension Educator, Forest Resources. All are professionally educated in Forestry and most have Masters Degrees. Most county offices produce newsletters with a forestry component. All are well-equipped with computers, e-mail, web connections and other technology. Some have downlinks for satellite programs and each will be in a plan for expansion of distance learning. County Extension offices brings the Community Forestry Program directly into communities around the state.

**Shieling Forest, Peterborough** - Located in the southwestern part of New Hampshire, the Shieling Forest offers a potential center for community forestry outreach. This property, which also houses a classroom/meeting room, provides a place for indoor and outdoor education and training in community forestry. It is owned by the state and is managed by the Division of Forests and Lands.

**University of New Hampshire, Durham** - In addition to housing Extension Forestry and Wildlife Specialists and Program Assistants, UNH is also the site for the Forestry Information Center. The Center was established to help communities and individuals in the wake of the January, 1998 ice storm disaster. The intention is to continue the information center for years to come. The Center provides communities and the public with information about programs available help them with ice storm or other forestry issues. A 1-800 number is available, along with an active web site and capability to respond in a variety of mediums, including mail, FAX, e-mail, web site, telephone, news articles and publications. It has already been used effectively in helping communities secure grants for ice storm recovery efforts.

**University of New Hampshire, Manchester** - The Community Forestry Volunteer Coordinator is located in the state's largest city at UNH, Manchester. She is working successfully with communities, including inner city neighborhoods, in Manchester and is expanding her area of influence throughout the populated Merrimack River corridor. This is also the site for the newly established Family, Home and Garden Center, which is specifically designed to assist individuals with their homeowner type questions. Equipped with a 1-800 phone number, the Center will answer volumes of Urban and Community calls, particularly, shade and ornamental trees. Not only will this reach more people with quality, unbiased information about trees, its efficiency is expected to free up other Extension staff to better develop, implement and evaluate impacts of other programs, including Urban and Community Forestry programs.

**Fox Forest, Hillsborough** - The Baldwin Environmental Center at Fox Forest in Hillsborough, New Hampshire provides a site for Community Forestry Programs. It's 1,445 acres offers the opportunity to bring community residents, including youth, into forest settings via a network of trails. The facility is used for professional resource manager and volunteer training. Local residents provide input on uses of Fox Forest and help shape its future as an educational outreach center. The facility is owned by the state and is managed by the NH Division of Forests and Lands.

## LEVERAGED FUNDING

U.S. Forest Service Urban and Community Forestry Funds are multiplied in several ways. Some funding is provided by the New Hampshire State Legislature, although the amount and potential for growth is very limited.

Trusts have been established for the programming, operation, and maintenance at Division of Forests and Lands facilities such as the Urban Forestry Center, Shieling Forest, and Fox Forest.

The Urban Forestry Center - John Elwyn Stone Trust contributes significantly to the overall funding for the Urban and Community Forestry Program in New Hampshire.

The Extension connection provides a substantial component of funding for Community Forestry work. County governments contribute to the salaries of Extension county forestry professionals and other county staff involved in community forestry efforts. Counties also provide facilities and substantially contribute to in-state travel and secretarial support. The University of New Hampshire provides facilities, communications and computer technology, secretarial support, some salary dollars, fringe benefits, publication services, administration and more. Forest Service funds are combined with Extension Renewable Resource Extension Act (RREA) funds to help multiply the resources available to conduct Community Forestry programs. Extension has no problem in meeting 50-50 matching requirements for the federal funds that it receives, mostly because of the county and University component in supporting these programs.

More and more, grants are becoming a necessity to adequately fund Community Forestry Programs. UNH Cooperative Extension actively peruses competitive grant Request For Proposals which will enhance its efforts to carry out its mission and to deliver relevant programs. Dependence on short-term grant funding weakens organizational capacity to deliver long-term quality programs. It also tends to fragment, rather than focus efforts over the long term, as emphasis must shift to meet the expectations of various grant funders. Showing a base of U. S. Forest Service funding, which can be leveraged, is an incentive for grant providers to augment funding for Community Forestry programs. Community-based programs are popular with funding organizations, providing the opportunity to multiply U. S. Forest Service Urban and Community Forestry funding.

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**Showing a base of U. S. Forest Service funding, which can be leveraged, is an incentive for grant providers to augment funding for Urban and Community Forestry**

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## STAFFING

### Administration

|               |       |         |
|---------------|-------|---------|
| J.B. Cullen   | F&L   | 0.5 FTE |
| Bob Edmonds   | UNHCE | 0.1 FTE |
| Karen Bennett | UNHCE | 0.1 FTE |

### Support Staff

|                     |       |         |
|---------------------|-------|---------|
| Charisse Baker      | F&L   | 1.0 FTE |
| Richard Jackson     | F&L   | 1.0 FTE |
| William Littlefield | F&L   | 1.0 FTE |
| Wendy Scribner      | UNHCE | 0.1 FTE |
| Valarie Dumont      | UNHCE | 0.3 FTE |

### Community Forestry Coordinator

|             |     |         |
|-------------|-----|---------|
| A.J. Dupere | F&L | 1.0 FTE |
|-------------|-----|---------|

### Community Forestry Volunteer Coordinator

|           |       |         |
|-----------|-------|---------|
| Mary Tebo | UNHCE | 1.0 FTE |
|-----------|-------|---------|

### Technical Assistance

|  |       |         |
|--|-------|---------|
| Extension Educators (10 County Foresters)  | UNHCE | 1.0 FTE |
| Extension Educators (3 Agriculture Agents) | UNHCE | 0.3 FTE |
| Mary Reynolds                              | F&L   | 1.0 FTE |
|  |       | =====   |
|  |       | 8.4 FTE |

## PARTNERSHIPS

New Hampshire's Urban and Community Forestry program functions well, due in part to partnerships established in the public and private sectors. Among the partners are the U. S. Forest Service Durham Field Office. The Division of Forests and Lands and UNH Cooperative Extension have close working relationships within all fields in State and Private and with Forest Service Research people.

The State of New Hampshire Department of Fish and Game provides funding for the Extension Wildlife Specialist. This person, with Fish and Game's concurrence, has been an active leader in community natural resource efforts.

The Society for the Protection of New Hampshire Forests has been a very close partner in the Urban and Community Forestry program over the years and has helped shape the program's direction. The Forest Society still remains a valuable connection for this program, although their organizational mission does not permit them to continue with the strength in urban areas that they once exhibited. The Forest Society and groups such as the New Hampshire Audubon Society, are active and valuable partners in community planning, open space protection and other community-related efforts.

The UNH Thompson School of Applied Science provides practical assistance, guidance,

programs and educational assistance.

Individual communities, land trusts, conservation organizations, conservation commissions and local committees are valuable partners in community natural resource efforts.

## IDENTIFIED FOCUS AREAS

### PROGRAM ADMINISTRATION

The Division of Forests and Lands and the University of New Hampshire Cooperative Extension have responsibility for the administration of New Hampshire's Urban and Community Forestry Program. In addition to providing statewide leadership; they facilitate new and existing partnerships, disseminate technical guidance and information; provide support for the establishment and growth of local urban and community forestry programs; and the development of the state's urban and community forestry program.

#### **Goal:**

Provide statewide delivery of urban and community forestry support to local communities and interested groups.

#### **Strategies:**

1. Provide statewide leadership, direction, networking, program management, skills, and technical resources for urban and community forestry in New Hampshire.
2. Work to achieve the goals of the national urban and community forestry program as stated in the U.S. Forest Service's Strategic Plan "Urban and Community Forestry: On Course Into the Future".
3. Maintain a full-time position of State Community Forestry Coordinator.
4. Maintain a full-time position of Community Forestry Volunteer Coordinator.
5. Maintain a New Hampshire Community Forestry Advisory Council.
6. Develop and implement New Hampshire's Urban and Community - 5 Year Program Plan.
7. Prepare yearly report on program accomplishments using the current Forest Service reporting system.

### PUBLIC AWARENESS

In New Hampshire people living in urban environments are not fully aware of the importance of caring for and maintaining the natural environment within their community. There is a need to make communities, businesses, and residents aware that they have a responsibility to protect and enhance the natural character of their community and to nurture safe, healthy, and attractive trees in the cities and towns in which they live.

Goal:

Increase the public's awareness of the importance of New Hampshire's urban and community forest resources.

**Strategies:**

1. Provide education about the importance of land conservation and the techniques used to accomplish community goals.  
UNHCE, NHDFL, CFAC  
2000
2. Develop a communications plan, working with marketing expertise at the University of New Hampshire and particularly with other natural resource partners.  
UNHCE, NHDFL, CFAC  
2000
3. Enhance the ability of the Community Forestry Advisory Council to effectively reach the public with key messages.  
UNHCE, NHDFL, CFAC  
2000
4. Strengthen connections between existing volunteer programs- Backyard Tree Farm, Coverts Project, Community Tree Steward, and others- to more effectively spread key messages.  
UNHCE, NHDFL  
2000-2004
5. Foster the observance of Arbor Day on a continuing basis and solicit the participation of towns and cities in the "Tree City USA" program.  
UNHCE, NHDFL, CFAC  
2000-2004
6. Improve the use of media- television, radio, newspapers, web site, 1-800#, brochures, signs, and business sponsors to promote community forestry.  
UNHCE, NHDFL  
2000-2004
7. Encourage the State Forester, and other key leaders- the Governor, the Commissioner of the Department of Resources and Economic Development, the President of the University of New Hampshire, the Dean of the University of New Hampshire Cooperative Extension, key leaders in the state's conservation organizations, county commissioners, legislators, town officials, and other high profile people- to be visible and active disseminating key messages about the importance of urban and community forestry.  
UNHCE, NHDFL, CFAC  
2000-2004

8. Promote the importance of urban and community forestry through the Urban Forestry Center, Fox and Sheiling Forests, and other appropriate public lands by developing demonstration area and through educational programs offered for the non-professional.  
UNHCE, NHDFL, CFAC  
2000-2004
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## **COMMUNITY NETWORKING**

Within each New Hampshire community, the responsibility for decision making and management of community trees and forests is fragmented between numerous departments, commissions, committees, and boards. This often results in a piecemeal approach to planning and caring for community trees. There is a need for each community to identify needs, focus responsibility, and to have an overall policy or plan to guide their efforts.

### **Goal:**

Increase the interest and knowledge of community decision-makers in community and urban forest resources.

### **Strategies:**

1. Implement a community conservation assistance program that assists communities with comprehensive natural resource conservation planning projects.  
UNHCE, NHDFL, CFAC  
2000
2. Expand efforts to emphasize sustainable communities and an ecosystem-based approach by promoting greenbelts, native species, and watershed management.  
UNHCE, NHDFL, NECUCF  
2000-2004
3. Develop town, county, and school forests and private lands as demonstration areas.  
UNHCE, NHDFL  
2000-2004
4. Encourage communities to develop a community forestry plan and to do natural resource inventories and assist them with the interpretation of natural resource data.  
UNHCE, NHDFL  
2000-2004
5. Strengthen relationships with community leaders and develop education programs and information targeted towards town conservation commissions, planning boards, zoning boards of adjustment, selectmen, town clerks, town administrators, and road agents.  
UNHCE, NHDFL  
2000-2004
6. Partner with others such as regional planning commissions, Office of State Planning, The New Hampshire Municipal Association, and the New Hampshire Association of

Conservation Commissions.  
UNHCE, NHDFL  
2000-2004

7. Improve the dissemination of information through the use of town newsletters, direct mailing to town clerks and town administrators, newsletters that town officials receive, and collaboration with the Division of Forests and Lands Forest Rangers.  
UNHCE, NHDFL  
2000-2004
  8. Participate in Community Profiles and become aware of communities' natural resource issues and identify appropriate follow-through.  
UNHCE, NHDFL  
2000-2004
  9. Foster and support the creation of community tree groups.  
UNHCE, NHDFL, CFAC  
2000-2004
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## **EDUCATION AND TRAINING OF NATURAL RESOURCE PROFESSIONALS**

Continuing education and professional development are of increasing importance to community forestry resource professionals. Rapid technological changes, the social significance of the community forest, increased public awareness, and high environmental standards all create greater professional demands. There is a need to provide professionals with high quality educational opportunities and information which can then be carried out to clientele.

### **Goal:**

Increase research-based skills and knowledge about urban and community forest resources of natural resource professionals, including arborists, foresters, landscape architects, ornamental horticulturists, entomologists, nursery persons biologists, soil and water scientists, planners and researchers.

### **Strategies:**

1. Develop an education program that encourages foresters to provide urban and community forestry services that complement rather than compete with other professionals such as landscape architects, planners, ornamental horticulturists, entomologists, arborists, and nursery persons.  
UNHCE, NHDFL, NECUCF  
2000-2004
2. Collaborate with the Northeast Center for Urban and Community Forestry, the New Hampshire Arborist Association, and other organizations and professionals in the green industry to conduct continuing education programs.

UNHCE, NHDFL, NECUCF  
2000-2004

3. Survey natural resource professionals and communities to determine educational program needs, appropriate content, and optimal meeting locations and scheduling.  
UNHCE, NHDFL, NECUCF  
2000
  4. Ensure that courses meet the requirements of accrediting agencies and organizations.  
UNHCE, NHDFL, NECUCF  
2000-2004
  5. Expand the use of the world wide web as a means to disseminate information to professionals.  
UNHCE, NHDFL, NECUCF  
2000-2004
- 

## **VOLUNTEERS**

With the current budget-tightening on the federal, state, and local levels, volunteers are becoming more important in all aspects of American life. There is a need for statewide coordination to educate and guide volunteer efforts to maximize community benefits.

The benefits of engaging volunteers goes beyond financial considerations. Using volunteers in the development and implementation of a community forestry program develops a strong sense of community ownership in programs and projects.

The Community Tree Steward Program is an innovative use of volunteers. Under the leadership of a Community Forestry Volunteer Coordinator, volunteers go through a ten week training program. The training, provided by many resource professionals, includes such urban forestry topics as tree anatomy and physiology, identification, insects and diseases, proper pruning and planting, and soil and water relationships. It also includes training on fund raising, public speaking, presentation techniques, and field trips.

Upon graduation Community Tree Stewards agree to donate 40 hours of their time delivering tree awareness programs to schools and adult groups and helping communities plan, implement, and monitor their community forestry programs.

When Community Tree Stewards move out into the communities, they are provided with a lifeline to community forestry resource professionals from the University of New Hampshire Cooperative Extension and the Division of Forests and Lands, as well as information about town officials, the community's past efforts towards a tree program, and the names of potential volunteers. The hope is that as Community Tree Stewards move on to new communities, they will leave a volunteer group in place for long-term planning and care.

### **Goal:**

Increase the numbers and effectiveness of volunteers conducting urban and community

volunteer work.

**Strategies:**

1. Use the Community Tree Steward Program as a primary community forestry outreach mechanism in the Merrimack River corridor of Hillsborough County and the highly developed counties of Strafford and Rockingham, and parts of Merrimack. Continue to recruit and train new volunteers and to provide support to existing stewards.  
UNHCE, NHDFL  
2000-2004
  2. Encourage Community Tree Stewards to interact with town officials and recruit conservation commission members, planning board members, and other local decision-makers.  
UNHCE, NHDFL  
2000-2004
  3. Recruit conservation commission members, planning board members, and other local decision-makers as Community Tree Stewards.  
UNHCE, NHDFL  
2000-2004
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**TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE**

The Division of Forests and Lands and the University of New Hampshire Cooperative Extension provide technical assistance to communities, public decision makers, other targeted audiences and the general public.

Technical assistance includes the following: One-to-one contact with communities, work with volunteers, work with professional natural resource professionals, work with public decision makers, work with conservation agencies and private conservation organizations, workshops, seminars, publications, fact sheets, web site, research reports, and work with the media.

**Goal:**

Provide assistance to New Hampshire communities in managing and extending the urban and rural forest landscape.

## Strategies:

1. Provide assistance in establishing and maintaining community forestry programs that includes long-range planning, budgeting, fundraising, volunteer management.  
UNHCE, NHDFL  
2000-2004
  2. Provide training to community officials, community employees, and community volunteers in tree planting, tree maintenance, hazard trees, and community forest management.  
UNHCE, NHDFL  
2000-2004
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## 1998 ICE STORM DISASTER RESPONSE

In New Hampshire, more than 95 communities in 9 counties were affected by an ice storm that hit New Hampshire and northern New England in January 1998. Recovery needs of communities include assessment, planning, public health and safety, hazard reduction, access, debris clearance, and restoration. Communities need technical and financial assistance for town centers, along town roadways, on class VI roads, and on Town Forests and other municipally owned properties. Safety issues, increased fire danger and reduced access pose serious problems for communities.

Communities need to be aware of the technical and financial assistance programs that the New Hampshire Division of Forests and Lands and University of New Hampshire Cooperative Extension are providing with regard to ice storm relief.

Community grant funds are provided to municipalities for any one or a combination of the following ice storm related work:

Assessment, planning and tree restoration of town centers or other significant town areas.

Debris clearance and other tree work along town roadways for fire presuppression, to map and remove hazards, for aesthetics or to meet other reasonable ice storm related needs.

Debris clearance on Class VI roads for access relating to wildland fire, recreation or management of forest lands.

Community assistance to private homeowners for tree restoration work, including identification and removal of hazards, and for community aesthetics

Town Forests assessment, forest stewardship planning and implementation of ice storm related practices.

Communities are being encouraged to use some of the funds to hire professional natural resource professionals, including certified arborists and New Hampshire licensed professional foresters.

**Goal:**

Maintain and enhance the relationship developed with cities and towns that participated in the ice storm community grant program.

**Strategies:**

1. Complete the grant program by inspecting practices implemented. Provide information and technical support so that communities will maintain the practices.  
UNHCE, NHDFL  
2000-2001
2. Continue communication with these communities through direct mail, in particular, insure they receive the CFAC newsletter.  
UNHCE, NHDFL, CFAC  
2000-2004