



USFS Update for Urban Forest Councils in the Midwest February 2007

NATIONAL NEWS

2007/2008 Budget News: The House passed a joint resolution (HJ Res20) on January 31, 2007, providing appropriations for fiscal year 2007. The package funds most federal programs at 2006 levels. It is expected that the U&CF budget will be roughly equal to 2006 (\$28, 413,000). The president's proposed budget for FY 2008 suggests \$17,436,000, nationally for the Urban and Community Forestry Program - a 38% reduction over 2007 funding. This budget is not final as Congress will also develop their own budget over the coming months.

Abigail Kimbell Appointed Chief of the Forest Service: Washington (January 12, 2007) The U.S. Department of Agriculture announced the selection of Abigail Kimbell as the 16th chief of the Forest Service. Kimbell succeeds Chief Dale Bosworth, who retired on Feb. 2 after 41 years with the Forest Service.

Farm Bill: Agriculture Secretary Johanns unveiled the U.S. Department of Agriculture's 2007 Farm Bill proposals on January 31, 2007. There are more than 65 proposals corresponding to the 2002 Farm Bill titles. For information on forestry related proposals, go to:

<http://www.usda.gov/wps/portal/!ut/p/s.7.0.A/7.0.1UH?navtype=FB&navid=FORESTRY>

Redesigning State and Private Forestry: S&PF Deputy Chief Jim Hubbard is currently working with a board of advisors to develop a proposed "framework for change" for USFS S&PF. He recognizes that maintaining status quo with the program is not likely, and that change will be happening to S&PF. He is working to lead this change, rather than respond. There are several advisors from NA working with Jim, including: Mike Prouty (SPFO); Paul DeLong (State Forester, WI); and Jim Grace (State Forester, PA). The purpose of the program redesign is as follows: *shape and influence forest land use on a scale and in a way that optimizes public benefits from trees and forests for both current and future generations.* Final program redesign will be completed by September 30, 2007, with a small increment of the changes being implemented in FY'2008.

10-City Nationwide Tree Planting Campaign: The Home Depot Foundation and the National Arbor Day Foundation are partnering together to plant 1,000 trees in 10 cities across the country. These tree-planting events are part of a nationwide 10-city campaign led by The Home Depot Foundation and the National Arbor Day Foundation to increase awareness of the importance of city trees as green infrastructure in our cities and to create healthier communities in urban areas. Cities in the Midwest include: Detroit (April 27), Chicago (April 27), and Minneapolis (May 11). For more information, go to:

<http://www.arborday.org/takeaction/homedepot2007/?CFID=1547305&CFTOKEN=79249288>

Storms Over the Urban Forest National Conference: Will be held May 21-22, 2007, at Zoo Atlanta's Coca-Cola World Studio in Atlanta, Georgia. A highlight of this conference will be presentations by CNN National Correspondent, Gary Tuchman; Weather Channel host and Climate and Environment Expert, Dr. Heidi Cullen; and Undersecretary, Natural Resources & Environment, of the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Mark Rey. This conference will focus on the planning, response and recovery processes necessary to address storms affecting urban and community forests. Attendees will learn how to coordinate urban forestry and emergency management responses to storms, which tree species are resistant to hurricane damage and which are most likely to fail, and how to raise funds and mobilize community action to support replanting and recovery efforts. To register or view a complete agenda, visit www.arborday.org/storms.

NORTHEASTERN AREA NEWS

Updated Northeastern Area Website provides hot topics, new publications, tools and Partner links
<http://www.na.fs.fed.us/urban/index.shtm>

A Snapshot of the Northeastern Forests: This document provides an overview of current and emerging issues facing the forests of NA. Lots of maps, facts, numbers, etc – excellent resource information.
http://www.na.fs.fed.us/pubs/misc/snap_shot/ss.pdf.

RESOURCES, TOOLS AND WEBSITES

Urban Natural Resources Institute (UNRI) Information Webcasts available as archived presentations: In response to requests for 'replays' of the monthly UNRI Informational Webcasts, these have been made available for viewing at any time. Many topics are available, including: The Living Memorials Project; The Wildland/Urban Interface; Tree Canopy and UV Radiation; and Handheld Computer Technology. Visit the following URL to access the webcasts:
<http://www.unri.org/webcast/webcastarchives.shtml>

EPA Request for Applications: Smart Growth Implementation Assistance: The Development, Community, and Environment Division in U.S. EPA's Office of Policy, Economics, and Innovation has issued a request for applications for the Smart Growth Implementation Assistance program. Through this program, a team of multidisciplinary experts will provide free technical assistance to communities, regions, or states that want to develop in ways that meet environmental and other local or regional goals. EPA is soliciting applications from states or communities that want help with either policy analysis or public participatory processes. **Applications will be accepted until March 8, 2007.** For more information and application materials, go to: www.epa.gov/smartgrowth/sgia.htm.

2007 CARE Program: RFP Available! (Deadline April 9): The US Environmental Protection Agency has issued a funding notice for the COMMUNITY ACTION FOR A RENEWED ENVIRONMENT (CARE) PROGRAM. CARE is a unique community-based, community-driven, multimedia demonstration program designed to help communities understand and reduce risks due to toxics and environmental pollutants from all sources. The CARE grant program will help communities form collaborative partnerships, develop a comprehensive understanding of the many sources of risk from toxics and environmental pollutants, set priorities, and identify and carry out projects to reduce risks through collaborative action at the local level. The RFP is available on-line at: <http://www.grants.gov/search/search.do?oppId=12472&mode=VIEW>

US Mayors and Climate Protection: The U.S. Conference of Mayors has formed a new partnership with ICLEI - Local Governments for Sustainability USA - to reduce greenhouse gas emissions in cities through outreach, education and technical assistance. The mayors also formed a Mayors' Council on Climate Protection with the goal of providing mayors the tools they need to carry out their mission. Formerly the International Council of Local Environmental Initiatives, ICLEI is the nation's foremost organization working to provide cities with resources to lead on climate protection in the U.S. and internationally. Refer to the U.S. Conference of Mayors and ICLEI web resources at: www.coolmayors.com for additional information. Also check out the US Conference of Mayors Climate Protection page:
<http://www.usmayors.org/climateprotection/>.

Northern Tree Selection Website is designed to help guide you through the process of tree selection, and provide a list of possible trees for your project in the northeast United States, hardiness zones 2 – 7.
<http://orb.at.ufl.edu/TREES/index.html>

New Urban Forestry Index (UFind) is a searchable index of urban forestry and arboriculture publications and other media (like videos, websites, and posters). <http://www.urbanforestryindex.net/>

TreeLink: Each state now has an easy URL on the TreeLink website. To access this link, type in treelink.org/your state (e.g. http://treelink.org/new_jersey). This is your chance to take ownership of your page – you can build a network of linkages on your page, add municipal and other partner websites, add nonprofits groups, and add product links you'd like to highlight. This service is especially useful if you do not have great support from your state webmaster.

Trees and Ice Storms - The second edition of “Trees and Ice Storms: The Development of Ice Storm-Resistant Urban Tree Populations” has now been completed by researchers at the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point and the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. This full-color, 20-page booklet describes the impact of ice storms on trees and the consequent damage to other infrastructure. Most importantly, it provides practical suggestions for developing storm-resistant urban forests and tips for recovering. It is available on-line at <http://na.fs.fed.us/urban/inforesources/TreesIceStorms2ed>

Forest Service Accessibility Guidebook on Outdoor Recreation and Trails is easy to use, full of photos, illustrations, design tips, hotlinks and valuable side-bar information to help Forest Service personnel, as well as the agency's partners, contractors, and Federal and State agencies better understand the integration of accessibility into the outdoor recreation environment. <http://www.fs.fed.us/recreation/programs/accessibility>

National Management Measures to Control Nonpoint Source Pollution from Urban Areas has been released by EPA. The comprehensive 512-page guidance will help local governments and others protect water resources from polluted runoff that can result from everyday activities and urban development. For more information, click on the following URL: <http://www.lgean.org/html/whatsnew.cfm?id=988>

Dangerous Travelers- Controlling Invasive Plants Along America's Roadways Video targets road maintenance personnel and equipment operators. <http://www.fs.fed.us/invasivespecies/news.shtml>

Roadside Vegetation Concept and Planning Manual, Enhancing Delaware Highways show how to enhance roadside and other corridor landscapes, written, edited and prepared by: Susan Barton, University of Delaware; Rick Darke , Rick Darke LLC; Gary Schwetz , Delaware Center for Horticulture. www.deldot.gov/static/pubs_forms/manuals/edh/index.shtml

Anatomy of a Grant Proposal A Guidebook for the Fire Service - by Richard Lambert. This guidebook for the fire service is available free from The Idea Bank's Web site at www.theideabank.com/freeguide.html.

The Aerial Photography Field Office (APFO) is the primary source of aerial imagery for the United States Department of Agriculture. Over 10,000,000 images are held here. The imagery dates begin with 1955 to the present. For more information <http://www.apfo.usda.gov/>

NUCFAC PROJECTS UPDATE

Going Green (Compass Rose Media). Final project includes a multimedia presentation that illustrates how planting more trees in urban areas pay economic dividends for cities. The presentation combines cutting edge content, creativity and technology and delivers a compelling message to leaders, planners, architects, etc.: <http://www.going-green.org>

Economic Impacts of the Green Industry in the United States (recipient: University of Tennessee and University of Florida). A study was completed that estimated the economic impacts of the Green Industry at the national level. Go to the following website for additional information: <http://www.utextension.utk.edu/hbin/greenimpact.html>.

Communicating the Economic and Ecological Values of Urban and Community Forests to Local Government Officials (International City/County Management Association (ICMA)). ICMA seeks to educate and inform local government officials about the economic and ecological values of urban forests. One excellent product from the project is a clearinghouse for urban forestry resources in the Local Government Environmental Assistance (LGEAN) web site: <http://www.lgean.org>. Also check out <http://www.icma.org> for articles and information.

Mobilizing the Web for Urban and Community Forestry Information (American Forest Foundation). The Urban and community forestry Education Resource website is a new component of Project Learning Tree (PLT) that provides educators and their students with online urban and community forestry resources that include information and education about the social, economic, and ecological values of urban and community forests. <http://www.plt.org/cms/urbanforestry/>.

New Website On Identifying Conks Of Wood Decay Fungi has been developed by Dr. Gary Emberger at Messiah College. It is based on Dr. Leonard Fergus' Wood Decay Manual, which, in turn was based on Overholt's keys, both from Penn State. Could be very useful in Forest Pathology courses, especially those taught in eastern USA. http://www.messiah.edu/Oakes/fungi_on_wood/

Community Tree Leadership Manuals - Download the full booklets and print them off for educational / not-for-profit use. <http://actrees.org/site/whatwedo/communityTree.php>