

Delaware Forest Service awards over \$47,000 in urban and community grants



Delaware Forest Service urban forester Kesha Braunskill looks for signs of disease and decay on a street tree in New Castle County. More than half of the DFS' urban and community grants this year will fund hazard tree removals, primarily in New Castle County.

The Delaware Forest Service's Urban and Community Forestry Program is awarding over \$47,000 in competitive grants to fund 14 community-based tree projects in all three Delaware counties. Homeowner groups, civic associations, nonprofit organizations, and municipalities were eligible to apply for up to \$5,000 in funds for a tree planting or tree management project. Recipients are required to match at least 50 percent of their grant through cash or in-kind match of volunteer hours or equipment. This year, more than half of the successful projects – a total of \$29,429.35 – addressed tree management issues such as the removal of hazardous trees. Overall, 11 projects were funded in New Castle County, one in Kent County, and two in Sussex County. Applications were evaluated by a committee of the Delaware Community Forestry Council according to several factors, including whether the community or municipality has adopted a tree canopy goal, first-time applicant status, and how well the project addresses key objectives in the [Delaware Forest Service's Statewide Forest Strategy](#).

Since the grant program's inception in 1991, the Delaware Forest Service has awarded over \$1.76 million to more than 200 organizations to improve their urban forest resources. More

information about Delaware's urban and community forestry program is online at delawaretrees.com. Urban forester Kesha Braunskill can be reached at 302.659.6704 or kesha.braunskill@delaware.gov.

2014 Urban and Community Grant Recipients

TREE MANAGEMENT GRANTS		
County	Community/Municipality	Amount
New Castle	Ardentown	\$4,169.00
New Castle	Carrcroft	\$2,000.00
New Castle	Edenridge	\$5,000.00
New Castle	Newark	\$4,847.85
New Castle	Odessa	\$5,000.00
New Castle	Tavistock	\$2,950.00
Sussex	Georgetown	\$462.50
Sussex	South Bethany	\$5,000.00
TREE PLANTING GRANTS		
County	Community/Municipality	Amount
New Castle	Arden	\$2,214.50
New Castle	Beech Hill	\$3,170.00
New Castle	Delaware City	\$3,843.50
New Castle	Westover Hills	\$1,289.00

Kent County	Parks and Recreation	\$2,415.00
CHESAPEAKE BAY GRANTS		
County	Community/Municipality	Amount
New Castle	Bay Pointe	\$5,000.00
Total: \$47,361.35		