

Trees on Maine Street

∞ The Project Canopy Bulletin ∞



Nov-Dec 2013

Project Canopy Partners with Alliance for Community Trees and TD Bank to Plant Trees in the City of Auburn

October 2013 – Auburn, Maine – Staff and volunteers from Project Canopy, the Maine Forest Service’s urban and community forestry program, joined employees from TD Bank, America’s Most Convenient Bank®, and Alliance for Community Trees (ACTrees) on October 2nd at Edward Little Park in Auburn, Maine to participate in TD Tree Days, a cooperative effort to plant new trees in local communities in need.



Project Canopy is a cooperative partnership between the Maine Forest Service, under the Maine Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry (DACF), and GrowSmart Maine, a statewide organization that supports sustainable prosperity. Cooperation between the LePage administration and private entities make projects like this possible.

As part of TD Forests, the bank’s environmental initiative to reduce paper usage and increase protected forest habitat, TD Bank and ACTrees are partnering with multiple community organizations for TD Tree Days. The tree planting events took place from Maine to Florida in September and October in communities and neighborhoods in need. The tree species are tolerant of tough urban conditions, provide shade, beauty, wildlife habitat, and help with environmental issues such as storm water retention and more.

“We are very grateful to TD Bank for its investment of time and resources in improving the City of Auburn,” Jan Santerre, Project Canopy Director said. “This is a tremendous example of how the state can partner with private corporations for public good, a concept that is a touchstone of the LePage administration.”

50 Volunteers planted 38 trees at Edward Little Park and its surroundings, which needed new trees for shade; air, water and noise buffering; traffic calming; and soil erosion. The trees also will add beauty and four-season interest to an otherwise hard gray landscape.

“TD Bank and our employees are proud to partner with the City of Auburn, Project Canopy and ACTrees to create greener open spaces in Auburn” said Diana Glassman, Vice President and Head of Environmental Affairs for TD Bank. “As an environmental leader, TD Bank focuses on areas where we can make the most impact and strengthen the physical and human fabric of our communities. We are thrilled that so many volunteers will be providing support for our local parks and opens spaces where we live and work.”

“People understand instinctively that trees are vital to communities,” says Carrie Gallagher, ACTrees Executive Director. “They clean and filter the air, provide shade for streets and parks, and help to manage stormwater and water pollution. Our partnership with TD Bank is helping more people and places get the many benefits of trees.”

PROJECT CANOPY

assists communities and nonprofit, grassroots organizations in building self-sustaining urban and community forestry programs with strong local support.

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To read the latest Forests for Maine's Future Newsletter

<http://www.forestsformainesfuture.org/new-from-the-woods/>

News and Updates

December 20 is Deadline for Conservation Program Financial Assistance

The USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) State Conservationist, Juan Hernandez, has set the cutoff date of Friday, December 20, for submitting applications for conservation program financial assistance in fiscal year 2014. Maine's producers are encouraged to sign up now for the Environmental Quality Incentives Program initiatives and Conservation Activity Plans, which provide financial and technical assistance to address varying natural resource priorities.

Producers may apply any time as program sign-up is continuous; however, those who submit applications by close of business on December 20, 2013 for the following initiatives will be considered for funding in Federal Fiscal Year 2014.

Financial assistance for the development of Conservation Activity Plans: A Conservation Activity Plan is a specialized plan prepared specifically for a conservation management unit. Financial assistance is available for the development of the following conservation plans: Agricultural Energy Management, Comprehensive Nutrient Management, Conservation Plan Supporting Organic Transition, Fish and Wildlife Habitat, Forest Management, Grazing Management, Integrated Pest Management, Nutrient Management, and Pollinator Habitat Enhancement.

Funding is available to assist Maine forest landowners with forest land planning and management of their private forests to improve wildlife habitat, forest health and productivity, and water quality. Eligible conservation practices include, but are not limited to, forest stand improvement, early successional habitat development and management, tree/shrub site preparation and establishment, upland wildlife habitat management, stream crossings, riparian forest buffers, fish passage, forest trails and landings, conservation cover, and access roads.

For more information or to apply for financial assistance, contact your local USDA Service Center listed online at <http://offices.usda.gov> or in the telephone book under United States Government, Agriculture Department.

National Fish and Wildlife Foundation Request for Proposals for the Five Star and Urban Waters Restoration Grant Program

The National Fish and Wildlife Foundation announced an RFP for Five-Star and Urban Waters Restoration Grants. The grant program seeks to develop community capacity to sustain local natural resources for future generations by providing modest financial assistance to diverse local partnerships for wetland, forest, riparian and coastal habitat restoration, stormwater management, outreach and stewardship with a particular focus on water quality, watersheds and the habitats they support. This opportunity is sponsored in part by the Urban Waters Federal Partnership, to improve urban water quality, increase public access and restore riparian habitat and urban forests in developed watersheds throughout the United States. Also in this RFP, EPA makes funding available through its Five Star Program for on-the-ground restoration projects that include on-the-ground wetland, riparian, in stream and/or coastal habitat restoration. For more information please visit EPA's Five Star Website at: http://water.epa.gov/grants_funding/wetlands/restore/index.cfm.

There is a webinar about the Five Star and Urban Waters Restoration Grant program for potential applicants on Thursday, December 5 (2-3:30 pm EDT). The webinar will review the RFP and provide an overview of the program. First time applicants and anyone with questions about the RFP are strongly encouraged to participate in the webinar. Registration information can be found on the website at <http://www.nfwf.org/fivestar>.

The National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF), the National Association of Counties, and the Wildlife Habitat Council (WHC), in cooperation with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), USDA Forest Service (USFS), the US Fish and Wildlife Service, Southern Company, FedEx and PG&E, have created a combined total funding opportunity for the 2014 Five Star/Urban Waters Restoration Program of approximately \$1,800,000. Applications for this RFP must be submitted online in Easygrants by 11:59 pm EDT, Wednesday, February 5, 2014. See the RFP to learn more about using Easygrants.

*"Though a tree grows so high, the falling leaves return to the root."
- Malay proverb*

Project Canopy Grants Help Towns from Fort Kent to Kittery Increase Tree Canopy

Recently completed Project Canopy assistance grants in Brownville, Fort Kent, Wells, Kittery, and Bath demonstrate the importance of planting trees in the places that count. Each focused on specific benefits of community trees; food production, stormwater retention, noise and visual screening, and architecture to enhance the landscape.

When the Wells National Estuarine Research Reserve conservation project was first started 25 years ago, the original purchase and sales agreement included five house lots along the entrance road. At the last minute, these lots were pulled from the agreement. Since that time, four out of five lots have been developed. The entrance road now borders the neighbors' backyards, and plans for a forested visual buffer have been in development for years. Project Canopy funding allowed the reserve to plant 17 large shade and screening trees to the area, in addition to the 12 large pine and spruce the reserve acquired through a partnership with Project Canopy and Dutton's nursery the year prior. The new buffer helps the reserve move toward their goal of having a forested buffer, and serves as a demonstration area for visitors wanting to do the same.

The town of Fort Kent also planted trees to buffer a community park from surrounding neighbors. The development of Riverside Park is a project the town has been working on for several decades. Recent improvements to recreational fields, access roads, and trails have been impressive. As part of the Project Canopy Assistance grants, the town has now planted roughly 60 trees throughout the property for visual buffering, physical buffers, beauty, and water filtration before runoff makes its way to the Saint John River. Fort Kent also received trees through the partnership with Project Canopy and Dutton's Trees, planting over 50 large shade trees the previous year through this donation.

The Towns of Brownville and Brownville Junction, as a gateway to the great northwoods areas of Katahdin Ironworks, Gulf Hags, and Baxter State park should be plenti-

ful with trees. Backyards generally are, but developed areas such as the town office and a community rest area, when developed, did not include any landscaping. Through the assistance of a 2012 Project Canopy grant and the guidance of the Piscataquis County Economic Development Council, the town was able to plant a variety of 34 flowering and shade trees, as well as over 30 flowering shrubs to compliment community buildings and parks, and to provide both visual and noise buffering for the town from adjacent industrial uses associated with the railroad junction.

The City of Bath embarked on a unique project to develop orchards for several city schools in their expeditionary learning and culinary programs. Plantings at Bath Middle School, and the South End Park were installed with a total of 73 apple and pear varieties suited to the Maine environment. In fact, the trees were so appealing, that several trees were stolen from the South end park site. Weekly monitoring uncovered two incidents of tree theft, and were logged with the Bath Police. As part of the investigation, the Bath PD recommended submitting a news report, in the event that someone might have information regarding the thieves or whereabouts of the trees. As an unintended outcome of the report, there was an out-pouring of financial, material, and personal support from the community and the industry that afforded the purchase and replacement of not only the trees that were stolen, but 11 more! All trees are still present and accounted for.

The town of Kittery recently installed a memorial site to the victims of the U.S.S. Thresher submarine that died 50 years ago. The site is part of a larger memorial site, including "Memorial Circle", which is named in memory of World War II veterans. The site is also part of the newly improved and emerging center of Kittery. Project Canopy supported planting of 26 trees, with additional trees planted as part of the overall effort. Students from Horace Mitchell Elementary, Shapleigh Middle, and Traip Academy pitched in on Friday, November 8th to help plant the remaining trees, for Veterans Day.



*"I frequently tramped eight or ten miles through the deepest snow to keep an appointment with a beech-tree, or a yellow birch, or an old acquaintance among the pines."
- Henry David Thoreau*

Find us on the web at projectcanopy.me, on Facebook at [facebook.com/ProjectCanopy](https://www.facebook.com/ProjectCanopy) or on twitter [@ProjectCanopy](https://twitter.com/ProjectCanopy)

Community Wrap-up

"The grim frost is at hand, when apples will fall thick, almost thunderous, on the hardened earth."

- D. H. Lawrence

Envirothon Workshop Held In Aroostook

Dan Jacobs and Dave Rochester worked with Aroostook county high schools to put on a full day workshop to help students prepare for next spring's Regional Envirothon. Students were introduced to map and compass skills, basic forest management and tree identification and teachers were provided with informational handouts that they can use in their curriculum to work with students in the school. Local folks stepped up for the cause due to the unfortunate lack of presence of Natural Resource Conservation Service Employees caused by the federal government shut down to make this workshop a success. This workshop was well attended with over 70 students taking part.



Calendar

November

29 Bobcats, Birds and Butterflies: Good Forestry is Good for Wildlife - Newry

December

2 Project Canopy grant applications due
3 Kennebec Woodland Partnership Meeting, Winthrop
4-7 ASCA Conference - Mohegan Sun, CT
7 Sustainable Balsam Fir Tipping and Wreath Making Workshop Ladd Recreation Center - Wayne. Preregister: 377-2848
17 ISA Certified Arborist Exam - Burlington VT [Details](#)
20 TD Green Streets applications due

TD Bank Awarding \$200,000 in Grants to Tree City USA Communities through TD Green Streets

TD Green Streets supports innovative practices in urban forestry. The program will award a total of \$200,000 in grants in support of local forestry projects in low- to moderate-income (LMI) neighborhoods. Funding can go towards the purchase of trees, tree planting and maintenance, education and training opportunities. The maximum amount of each grant request is \$20,000. Up to 50% of the total project funding can be designated for new trees.

To be eligible for a TD Green Streets grant, municipalities must be a current (2012) Tree City USA community within TD Bank's United States footprint. A listing of eligible communities, information, requirements, and the application can be found at tdgreenstreets.com.

Grant applications are due December 20, 2013.

Explore how the TD Green Streets program can assist with innovative projects in your community!

Questions? - email tdgreenstreets@arborday.org



"How can those who do not garden, who have no lot in the great fraternity of those who watch the changing year as it affects the earth and its growth, how can they keep warm their hearts in winter?"

- Francis King

MAINE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE,
CONSERVATION AND FORESTRY

Maine Forest Service

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