

A scenic view of a park path lined with trees in autumn. The path is covered in fallen yellow and orange leaves. Several people are walking along the path in the distance. The trees are mostly deciduous, with some evergreens visible on the right side. The overall atmosphere is peaceful and natural.

promoting **Nature** in every **Community**

A 20-Year Legacy of Greening...

...It Didn't Just "Happen"

In 1990, when the NATIONAL URBAN AND COMMUNITY FORESTRY ADVISORY COUNCIL and the Forest Service's urban and community forestry program were created, trees were viewed as amenities—something that "looked good" in the neighborhood.

Today, urban trees and green space are valued, not just for their beauty, but also for the benefits they deliver—just like any other part of a community's vital infrastructure.

Communities Drive the Process

The COUNCIL's Challenge Cost-Share Grant Program funds ground-breaking research on all the benefits that urban forests provide to community health, energy conservation, and urban economies.

Administered through the Forest Service, this program initiated many of today's most vigorous community tree programs and provided tools that helped launch new approaches to urban forestry. The COUNCIL addresses local, community-driven greenspace conservation issues at a national scale.



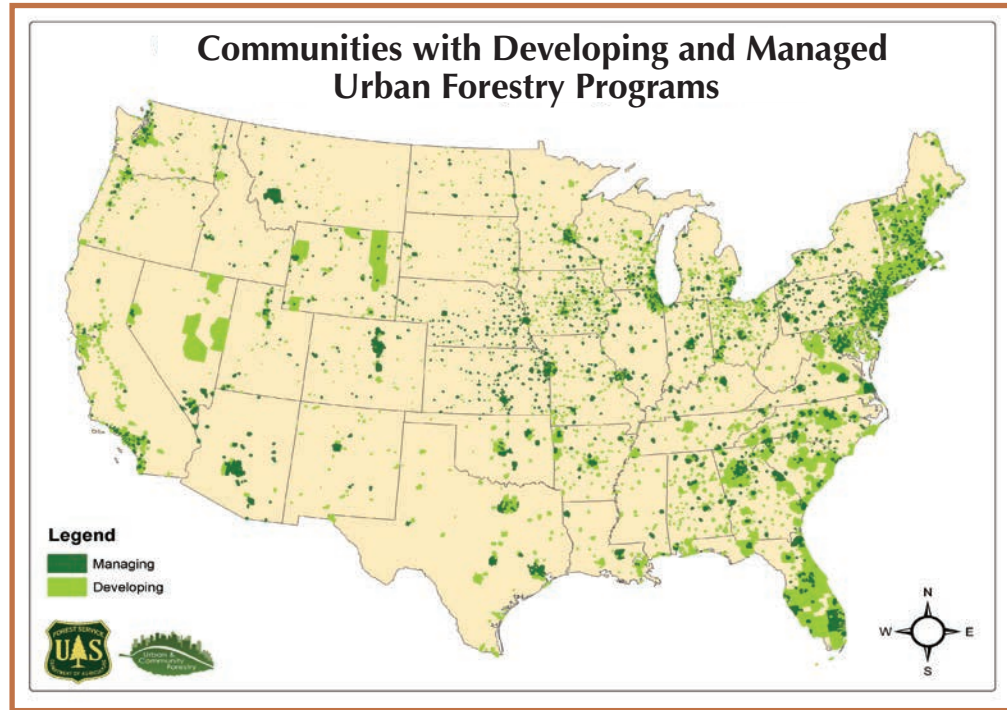


Real benefits...

- ▶ There are more than 592,000 publicly managed street trees in New York City, providing nearly \$122 million a year in benefits—about \$209 per tree (Peper, P.J., E.G. McPherson, J.R. Simpson, S.L. Gardner, K.E. Vargas, Q. Xiao: April 2007).
- ▶ Bismarck, ND, publicly manages about 17,800 street trees that, each year, “pay back” \$3 in benefits for each \$1 spent on their care (Peper, P.J., E.G. McPherson, J.R. Simpson, S.E. Maco, and Q. Xiao: 2004).
- ▶ There are more than 3,400 communities in the Arbor Day Foundation–Tree City, USA Program. More than 135 million people live in a “Tree City, USA.”

...for every community.

In 2010, the Forest Service urban and community forestry program and its state partners helped more than **7,100 communities** invest in greener neighborhoods.





Trees work for us.

Urban trees can cool neighborhoods by as much as 9° F (Akbari, H., et al.: 1992).

Mature trees near homes save up to 30% on summer cooling bills (McPherson, E.G., and Rowntree, R.A.: 1993).

Large trees in yards and as street trees can add from 3% to 15% to neighborhood home values (Wolf, K.L.: 2010).

Minneapolis' entire urban forest of 979,000 trees store 250,000 tons of carbon and remove an additional 8,900 tons of carbon from the atmosphere each year (Nowak, et al.: 2006).

Its nearly 199,000 street trees, alone, reduce Minneapolis' storm water management costs by \$9 million a year (McPherson, E.G., J.R. Simpson, P.J. Peper, S.E. Maco, S.L. Gardner, K.E. Vargas, S. Cozad, and Q. Xiao: 2005).

Green industries have an estimated economic impact of \$147.8 billion and can provide tens of thousands of new jobs—such as arborists, urban foresters, and landscape designers—in development and maintenance (Hall, C.R., A.W. Hodges, and J.J. Haydu: 2005).



i-Tree is an online analysis package that allows city planners to view projected benefit information.



Creating A Better Community

Forest Service research scientists and partners help people understand and communicate that an investment in their trees pays dividends in the community.

Led by imaginative politicians and potent citizens groups, “much of the energy and leadership are now coming from the communities themselves.”

Paul DeLong, State Forester, Wisconsin

Cities, suburbs, and rural communities now benefit from more than 100 million acres of urban and community forest land.

Creating A Healthier Environment

- Trees and green spaces can reduce attention deficit disorder symptoms in children. The presence of healthy trees encourages outdoor activity among children and adults, improving physical health and lowering stress (Wolf, K.L., and K. Flora: 2010).
- City trees directly reduce the incidence of air pollution-related illness. At least one study has shown that children living in areas of the city with more street trees have a lower prevalence of asthma (Lovasi, G.S., et al.: 2007).

Chicago's urban forest of more than 3.5 million trees removes about 888 tons of air pollution per year, including sulphur dioxide equal to emissions from 110,400 automobiles (Nowak, D.J., R.E. Hoehn III, D.E. Crane, J.C. Stevens, and C.L. Fisher: 2009).





Explore. Learn. Share.

The COUNCIL is charged with developing criteria and recommendations for National Urban and Community Challenge Cost Share Grant Categories that **explore** national innovative solutions to our communities' urban forestry issues. What we **learn** from these findings, we **share** with communities and a green infrastructure community of practice that improves a community's health, safety, and welfare for a better quality of life.

The Urban and Community Forestry Grant Program

Federal Programs for Urban Trees

As many as six cabinet-level agencies pursue programs that echo founding principles of the Urban and Community Forestry Program. In 2010, the COUNCIL recommended and the Forest Service awarded a significant grant to Virginia Tech and the University of Maryland to map the entire array of federal, state and organizational programs that support green infrastructure. This will allow leaders to identify how cooperation and coordination promote efficiency, while advancing each and every agency's agenda.

Air Quality Effects of Urban Trees

Research by ACRT, Inc., has assisted cities in Ohio with creating cost-effective ozone control strategies using urban vegetation.

Urban Trees Stimulate Local Businesses

Studies by the University of Washington found that shopping districts landscaped with urban trees are perceived as more consumer-friendly, are visited more often and seem to promote customer willingness-to-pay for products.

Growing Hope: Children, Trees, and Urban Public Housing

University of Illinois researchers examined the relationship between near-home nature and its positive affect on 169 inner city children living in 12 architecturally identical high-rise buildings—each with varying levels of nearby nature.

Cost Share Grant Projects—2010

CLIMATE CHANGE AND URBAN FORESTRY

*Manomet Center for Conservation Science,
Brunswick, ME: Managing Urban Forests to
Increase Community Resiliency to Climate
Change.*

*This project will promote resilience to climate change by:
1) using existing tools to assess how urban forests can contribute
to adaptation, 2) building and disseminating guidance
information to reduce risk of climate change impacts, and
3) exploring ways to use ecosystem service markets to help
financially support climate change adaptation.*

ENERGY AND URBAN FORESTRY

*University of Georgia, Athens, GA: Energy
Conservation & Urban Forests Extension
Community of Practice.*

*The project will develop a national online resource on the
role of urban forests in energy conservation, improving air
quality, increasing property values, and promoting community
development.*

PUBLIC HEALTH AND URBAN FORESTRY

*University of Washington, Seattle, WA:
Urban Forest Human Health and Well-Being
(HHWB)—Translating Evidence to Economic
Valuation.*

GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE ASSESSMENT

*University of Maryland, College Park, MD:
Encouraging Efficient Green Infrastructure
Spending.*

The project team will prepare studies and summaries for the Web in 2011. The project approach includes a multidisciplinary collaborative team to translate the evidence of human health and wellbeing benefits to economic valuation. The team will prepare a comprehensive framework of valuation approaches and outcomes, demonstrating why communities should invest in urban forestry to enhance social benefits.

The project team proposes a scoping study that would examine federal funding programs and stakeholder perceptions. Coordinating these programs would simplify the process for stakeholders and would ensure these federal dollars are spent efficiently to achieve local and regional goals.

Who We Are

- ▶ The NATIONAL URBAN AND COMMUNITY FORESTRY ADVISORY COUNCIL is the only congressionally-chartered federal advisory body for urban and community forestry, reporting directly to the Secretary of Agriculture.
- ▶ WE foster communication, collaboration, and innovation among the many organizations, agencies and individuals dedicated to conserving, growing and managing urban and community forests.
- ▶ Invested with the authority conferred by Secretarial appointment, we help convene communities of interest, identify key issues, and provide a credible platform for advancing common interests before the public and policymakers.
- ▶ By helping direct critical funding from the Forest Service, the COUNCIL fosters communication, innovative approaches to urban and community forestry, the application of such concepts to developing urban and community forests, and sustained healthier green communities.

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<http://www.fs.fed.us/ucf/nucfac/>

Information Sources on Urban and Community Forest Benefits

<http://depts.washington.edu/hhwb/>

<http://www.na.fs.fed.us/urban/treespayusback/index.shtm>

<http://www.fs.fed.us/psw/programs/uesd/uep/>

<http://nrs.fs.fed.us/urban/monitoring/>

<http://www.itreetools.org/>

<http://www.fs.fed.us/ucf/>



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