Community Prosperity

Investing in trees increases property values, bolsters businesses and community-level gross domestic product and provides energy cost savings. A Forest Service study conducted in five U.S. cities found that every dollar invested in the management of urban trees, like those invested through the UCF program, yields annual benefits of $1.37 to $3.09. The UCF program also gives American citizens the chance to give back, leveraging more than 1.6 million volunteer hours in FY2017 alone.

Customer Service

The UCF Program provides funding and technical support to state forestry agencies and non-profit partners, helping communities perform tree inventories, prepare management plans and policies and train staff and residents to plant and care for trees.

Job Creation

Urban forestry and green professions – arboriculture, landscape design and maintenance, horticulture, etc. – are growth industries with an annual economic impact of $147.8 billion and the potential to provide tens of thousands of new American jobs. The Forest Service supports workforce development through certification programs, youth summer camps, training for the tree care industry, apprenticeship opportunities and more.

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Disaster Planning, Response and Recovery

In 2016 more than 87 million people in the U.S. were impacted by 10 hurricanes, 24 severe storms, 11 winter storms and 10 straight-line winds. In the same year, wildfire burned nearly 5.5 million acres, threatening human life and property near communities. The UCF Program helps communities bounce back from these disasters through accounting for natural resources in disaster planning, mitigation, response and recovery. For example, the Urban Forest Strike Teams, funded and trained through the UCF program, help communities rebuild after disaster. This assistance allows local contractors to quickly get back to work and efficiently mitigate threats, and aids the communities in documenting tree damage for FEMA reimbursement.

Food and Water Access

The UCF Program works in partnership with local communities to maximize the contributions of forests and fruit and nut trees to food access. For example, with UCF funding, state forestry agencies work with local communities to develop and support statewide networks that includes growers from community gardens to orchard farmers and nursery owners.

Make trees a part of your vision | www.fs.fed.us/managing-land/urban-forests | www.vibrantcitieslab.com