



URBAN & COMMUNITY FORESTRY PROGRAM

An urban or community forest is the aggregate of all public and private vegetation and green space within a community that provide a myriad of environmental, health and economic benefits.

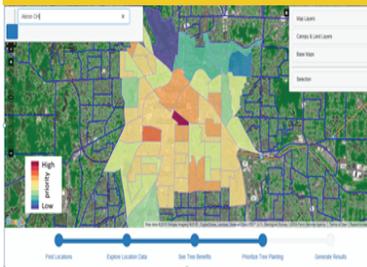


8,260

Number of communities served by the UCF Program in 2017; 35% of these are small rural communities.

200 MILLION

Number of Americans living in rural and urban communities served by the UCF Program.



140 MILLION

Number of acres of urban and community forest lands in the United States.

\$6.8 BILLION

Estimated dollar value of the health benefits of pollution removed by trees in communities.



The Forest Service is a proud partner in restoring and sustaining the health of urban and community forests, working hand in hand with 63 state and territory forestry agencies, more than 30 national partners, and more than 150 community tree groups. The Urban & Community Forestry (UCF) Program supports forest health for our Nation's forests across the whole landscape and preserves the unique sense of place in cities and towns. By delivering information and tools the program supports fact-based and data-driven best practices in communities of all sizes.

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.

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.

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.