

Urban and Community Forestry

Keeping our Nation's Communities Healthy and Vital

Your Urban and Community Forestry Program (U&CF)

The Forest Service in partnership with State forestry agencies, city foresters, arborists and non-profit organizations assists cities in planting and caring for trees in parks, along streets and rivers.

The Urban and Community Forestry program touches the lives of citizens in over 45,000 communities and metropolitan areas – where nearly 80 percent of Nation's population live and work.

How U&CF Serves You

- You receive technical assistance, training, and education to better plant and care for your trees and forests.
- Your tree care professionals and volunteers receive needed training and the latest technology to ensure today's investment will last.
- Networking with key partners at the National State and local levels to receive up-to-date information on the technology and sources of funding you need to get the job done.
- Capacity building grants available on a 50:50 matching basis.
- Technology that helps you better understand your environment and what you can do about it. Andy Lipkis, Director of TreePeople, has recently used this technology to design a state-of-the-art urban forestry cost-benefit model for cities.
- It helps you create a more healthy, and thriving city in which to live, work, and play.

National U&CF Funding History

<u>Year</u>	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001 Proposed
<u>Funds</u>	\$25.5	\$26.8	\$30.5	\$31.3	\$39.5

Note: Figures in millions

Why Urban Forests are Important

- Trees help prevent erosion
- Trees protect our rivers and streams
- Trees prevent storm water flooding
- Trees increase property and community values
- Trees save energy and money
- Trees cool our cities and towns
- Trees create healthy places and reduce crime
- Trees store carbon and fight climate change
- Trees clean our air and create pure oxygen
- Trees shelter and nourish birds and wildlife

U&CF Challenges across the Nation

- Trees and forests are disappearing in our cities and towns at an alarming rate as development and populations continue to grow. This means less shade, more noise, more flooding, less wildlife habitat, decreased air quality and a reduced quality of life in your city.
- Urban forests are also dying from old age, Dutch Elm disease and destructive pests like the Asian longhorn beetle.
- Many communities do not have the tools, technical expertise or financial resources required to assess their trees and forests and decide on the best course of action.
- The demand for technical assistance and services exceeds current funding levels by eight fold.

A Vision for U&CF

- Increased technical and financial support to local governments and grassroots non-profit tree organizations.
- More funds to help communities to develop and carry out GIS based inventories and assessments, forest health monitoring, and management plans.
- State-of-the-art urban forestry benefit-cost models to cities for improved natural resource planning and investment decision-making.

How the USDA Forest Service's Urban and Community Forestry Program Helps Your Community

Name

Organization

Number of People Represented by Individual/Organization

Projects done in your community/State

Who Benefited

Why the U&CF program is important to me and my community