

Program Manager Survey for USFS NUCFAC Action Plan

Welcome

Thank you for participating in this survey. We anticipate this will take no longer than 20 minutes to complete.

The Institute for Environmental Negotiation is implementing this survey as a contractor for the Secretary of Agriculture's National Urban and Community Forestry Advisory Council (NUCFAC) in an effort to craft the mandated Ten-Year Urban Forestry Action Plan for 2016-2026*. NUCFAC is part of the U. S. Forest Service's Urban and Community Forestry Assistance Program.

Part of the process is identifying collaborative opportunities with other Federal agencies involved in urban and community natural resources. More information about the Action Plan and planning process can be found at www.urbanforestplan.org.

Your responses are instrumental in the analysis of federal agency programs and may help guide funding in the coming years. Please share your contact information on the last page so that the Project Team helping to facilitate the development of the Action Plan may contact you for follow-up if needed.

Your responses will be compiled and reported anonymously in an aggregate form as part of the National Ten-Year Urban Forestry Action Plan, without individual attribution. Individual responses will not be included as part of the final report, but will be used to inform next steps in the development of collaborative opportunities.

Thank you in advance for your time!

If you have questions about this survey, please contact Katie Gronsky at kg3nu@virginia.edu.

*More information about the Urban and Community Forestry Program and NUCFAC

The U. S. Forest Service's Urban and Community Forestry Program (U&CF) plays a critical role in the management, protection and wise use of over 100 million acres of urban and community forest land. For over 35 years U&CF has provided assistance to cities, suburbs and towns, where more than 80% of Americans live, to improve the health of urban and community forests for the benefit of all.

The U&CF Program has authorities and mandates that allow the Agency to improve trees and forests across the public lands where people live. U&CF provides technical, financial, educational, and research services to communities so they can plant, protect, and maintain community trees and forests to maximize social, environmental, and economic benefits.

All Americans benefit from the multitude of services that the urban tree canopy provides: improved human health and wellbeing, green jobs, energy conservation, improved air and water quality, carbon sequestration, recreation, and wildlife habitat. Forest Service researchers have been at the forefront of research, modeling and tools development that now shows the extent and quantitative value of these ecosystem services. The Program is delivered through a continually expanding partnership network of state forestry agencies, local governments, nonprofit groups, the private sector, community organizations, volunteers, other federal agencies, and other Forest Service programs.

The Secretary of Agriculture's National Urban and Community Forestry Advisory Council provides recommendations and guidance, to the Forest Service's Urban and Community Forestry Program and National U&CF Challenge Cost-share Grant Program. Nearly \$1 million annually is awarded to nonprofits, local governments, academic institutions, and other partners that generate fresh approaches and science based projects to demonstrate the beneficial impact of urban trees and forests. This partnership network, and the unique public-private partnerships that have been established in communities, are critical to the Forest Service's Strategic Plan goal to "Engage Urban America in Forest Service Programs" and plays an important role in enhancing the quality of life for all Americans.

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1. In what ways do you think your program relates to, enhances, or is different from urban and community forestry? (See * on first page for more information.)

2. What opportunities and needs do you see for federal agencies working together around urban forestry? (check all that apply)

- Share tools and resources
- Avoid duplication of efforts
- Leverage funding to have greater collective impact
- Form a federal program Urban Forestry (or similar urban natural resource) "coalition" or "cohort"
- Coordinate/harmonize program goals

Other (please specify)

3. Do you have any recommendations for improving the status of the Nation's urban forest / natural resources? (i.e. education, technical assistance, modifications to existing programs and policies, etc.)

4. Would it be helpful for a meeting to be convened for federal agency programs related to urban forestry / natural resources to discuss ways programs might leverage funding and or coordinate activities to improve the status of the nation's urban forest?

- Yes
- No
- Not Sure

If not, what might be helpful to find ways to create a dialogue for coordination and collaboration among federal agency programs whose work relates to, or involves, urban forestry / natural resources?

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5. What is your current fiscal year-appropriated budget for your program?

6. Is this amount drastically different from the amounts appropriated in the past ten years?

- No
- Yes, much less than previously appropriated.
- Yes, much more than previously appropriated.

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Federal Program support of Urban and Community Forestry

The public, Forest Service, and partners have identified the following goals and strategies to be integrated into the next Ten Year Urban Forestry Action Plan. Please check the box if your program could contribute to these strategies. Strategies are nested under seven goals. Check all that apply.

7. Goal 1: Integrate Urban and Community Forestry into All Scales of Planning.

- Support the development of regional-scale master plans for urban forests.
- Support inclusion of trees and forests as elements of all community comprehensive or master planning efforts.
- Launch a public awareness and education campaign to elevate the value of urban trees and urban forest ecosystems as essential contributors to community sustainability and resilience.
- Increase community capacity to use urban forestry in public space planning, infrastructure, and private development.

8. Goal 2: Improve Human Health and Wellness through Urban and Community Forestry.

- Expand opportunities for collaboration with the health community.
- Champion a nationwide marketing campaign that links trees to human health and wellness.
- Plan, design and manage urban forests to improve human health and wellness.
- Develop tools to improve and highlight the relationship between improved public health, wellness and urban and community forestry and green infrastructure.

9. Goal 3: Cultivate Diversity, Equity and Leadership within the Urban Forestry Community

- Increase diversity, equity, and accessibility in urban and community forestry.
- Engage underserved communities in urban and community forestry.
- Develop effective leadership to build a national voice for urban forestry.
- Increase workforce development opportunities and green jobs in urban and community forestry, with particular attention to underserved communities.
- Promote expanded collaboration, training, and communication within the field of urban and community forestry to build workforce professional development.

10. Goal 4: Strengthen Urban and Community Forest Health and Biodiversity for Long-Term Resilience.

- Increase the biodiversity, health and resilience of trees in urban and community forests.
- Foster resilience, restoration and sustainability of urban and community forests facing climate change challenges.
- Support use of urban forests for increasing community food resilience and access to local foods.

11. Goal 5: Improve Urban and Community Forestry Management, Maintenance, and Stewardship

- Improve urban and community forest management, maintenance, and arboricultural practices.
- Develop comprehensive programs, policies, and resources for enhancing urban forestry stewardship.
- Advocate for better use of technology and tools in urban forestry.
- Facilitate expanded research and delivery of scientific findings to all stakeholders.

12. Goal 6: Diversify, Leverage, and Increase Funding for Urban and Community Forestry

- Increase funding and grants for urban and community forestry
- Expand collaboration between urban forestry and related fields, agencies, and sectors to leverage and diversify funding,

13. Goal 7: Advance Broad Public Awareness and Commitment to Action and Stewardship for Local Urban Forest Programs

- Create environmental education programs that focus on urban and community forestry issues.
- Create a nationwide urban forestry public awareness and education campaign.
- Increase engagement of underserved and minority communities in urban forestry establishment and stewardship.

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14. Please enter your contact information for possible follow-up from the Project Team.

Name:

Agency/Program:

Address:

Address 2:

City/Town:

State:

ZIP:

Country:

Email Address:

Phone Number:

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