

Sustainable Urban Forests Coalition FY 2009 Forest Service Budget Recommendations

Invest in Urban Forests for Healthier Cities

US Forest Service Urban and Community Forestry Program Budget			
2007 Actual	2008 Enacted	2009 President's Budget	2009 SUFC Recommendations
\$30.1 million	\$27.7 million	\$5 million (82% reduction)	\$50 million

\$50 million for the Urban and Community Forestry Program.

- **\$36 million for State Cooperative Assistance.** U&CF leverages \$3 for every \$1 in federal assistance and serves 83% of the population. This program helps communities assess, manage and maximize the benefits of trees in urbanized landscapes.
- **\$2 million for integrated Technology Transfer and Education** to further practices and policies that improve urban forest management and care.
- **\$12 million for a Metropolitan Areas Canopy Restoration Initiative** to assess, restore, and maintain urban tree canopy in 10 to 15 pilot cities. The initiative will devise science-based tree canopy targets, set strategies to maximize ecological service benefits, and monitor results in cities.

\$8 million for urban forest research projects.

The coalition supports the establishment of urban long-term research stations in selected cities to examine urban natural resource issues. In FY 2007, the Forest Service funded roughly \$6.2 million in research on urban forests as part of the overall Research & Development budget. In FY 2009, the coalition recommends \$8 million for urban resources research. Key units:

- Northern Station at Syracuse, NY – urban forest effects on air and water quality
- Northern Station at Evanston, IL – natural environments for human populations
- Northern Station at Burlington, VT – human values and urban forests
- Pacific Southwestern Station at Davis, CA – helping cities manage risks/benefits of trees
- Pacific Southwestern Station at Riverside, CA – wildland interface and urban cultures
- Southern Station at Gainesville, FL – southern fire and reducing wildland interface risks
- Southern Station at Athens, GA – technology transfer center
- RM Station at Flagstaff, AZ – southwest wildland /urban interface and restoration

Key Benefits of Urban Forests

- **Climate:** Trees cool ambient temperatures in cities, reducing CO₂ emissions. Urban trees also sequester 22.8 million tons of carbon per year – a service worth \$3.8 billion annually.
- **Energy:** Tree windbreaks reduce residential heating costs 10-15%, while shading and evaporative cooling from trees can cut residential cooling costs 20-50%.
- **Water:** Urban forests promote water quality and reduce stormwater management costs.
- **Air:** Trees produce oxygen, intercept airborne particulates, and reduce smog.
- **Regulatory Compliance:** Increasing tree cover by 10% in New York City would meet over 1/3 of the city's federal air quality compliance needs for ground level ozone.
- **Risk Management:** Professional urban forest management contains threats in the “urban interface”—such as invasive species, exotic pests, and fire—that pose a risk to forestlands.
- **Public Health:** Access to trees, green spaces, and parks promotes greater physical activity, reduces stress, and reduces asthma risks.

For more information, please contact:

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To have your national, state, or local organization listed as a co-supporter on this Sustainable Urban Forests Coalition document, please complete the form located at:

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Organizations in support of the FY 2009 Sustainable Urban Forests Coalition Request:

National & Regional

State and Local