

CWSF
COUNCIL OF WESTERN STATE FORESTERS

FY 2025

URBAN & COMMUNITY FORESTRY IMPACT REPORT

NV | CWSF

PROVIDES BENEFITS FOR ALL AMERICANS

The Urban and Community Forestry (UCF) program is essential for enhancing community health, resilience, and vitality through the stewardship of trees and green spaces.

The USDA Forest Service (Forest Service) UCF program brings the advantages of healthy forests to communities of all sizes, in every state across the nation. Authorized by Congress in the 1978 Cooperative Forestry Assistance Act (CFAA) and delivered by state forestry agencies, UCF programs provide essential technical and financial assistance.

In the Western region, **UCF is especially critical for small towns and rural areas** that lack access to professional tree care expertise.

Community forests, consisting of trees and green space, **improve the lives of Americans in communities of all sizes.** Trees in these landscapes reduce municipal costs, improve environmental and human health, and bolster local economies.[1]

UCF programs ensure all communities have access to these substantial benefits.

DRIVES ECONOMIC GROWTH



WA | David Moskowitz

Urban and community forests contribute to economic growth by **supporting jobs, generating economic activity, and providing health, property, and environmental benefits**.

Programs such as Tree City USA help communities make strategic investments in their urban forests, supporting local economies, community well-being, and long-term economic benefits.

[1] Kathleen L Wolf. "Trees in the Small City Retail Business District: Comparing Resident and Visitor Perceptions." Journal of Forestry (2005). https://doi.org/10.1093/JOF/103.8.390. Kathleen L Wolf. "PUBLIC RESPONSE TO THE URBAN FOREST IN INNER-CITY BUSINESS DISTRICTS." Journal of arboriculture, 29 (2003): 117-126. Kathleen L Wolf. "Business District Streetscapes, Trees, and Consumer Response." Journal of Forestry (2005). https://doi.org/10.1093/JOF/103.8.396.

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CO | Grace Mirzeler

LOWERS COSTS FOR FEDERAL, STATE, AND LOCAL GOVERNMENTS

Forests are an important part of a community's infrastructure. With proper planning, trees and other plants can provide important functions, such as reduced stormwater runoff, lowering costs for federal, state, and local governments.

The UCF program provides **essential financial, technical, and educational support** so communities can reduce long-term costs and maximize benefits from their investments.

STRENGTHENS LOCAL COMMUNITIES

Since the 1978 CFAA, Western state forestry agencies, the Forest Service, and local partners have worked together to strengthen forest resources within communities.

FY 2025 • BY THE NUMBERS

TECHNICAL & FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE PROVIDED TO **OVER**
60 MILLION PEOPLE

334,842 VOLUNTEER HOURS
CONTRIBUTED TO COMMUNITY FORESTRY PROJECTS

UCF programs provide technical, educational, and financial assistance and resources to empower communities to:

- Improve public safety
- Improve community forest health
- Strengthen small community vitality
- Enhance human health
- Protect community investments and maximize the benefits of trees


AZ | Trees Matter

PEOPLE ARE ESSENTIAL

Trees rely on people to thrive. Urban and community forestry work is grounded in relationships, takes time, and supports communities in safely managing trees in places with extreme conditions, critical infrastructure, and human activity.

The Council of Western State Foresters (CWSF) is a nonpartisan, nonprofit membership organization comprised of 17 western State Foresters and six U.S.-Affiliated Pacific Island Foresters. Learn more about CWSF at www.westernforesters.org. *This institution is an equal opportunity provider.*