



Forestry Career Spotlight: Urban and Community Forestry



Photo Credit: CWSF

What do Urban and Community Foresters do?

Urban and Community Foresters care for and manage tree populations in urban and community settings. They advocate for trees as an important part of urban infrastructure and consider the numerous benefits of urban and community trees, including air quality, shade, and stormwater runoff.

Who do they work for?

Urban and Community Foresters work for cities, states, nonprofits, and the USDA Forest Service.

Who is this job good for?

This job is good for people who connect with and understand the importance of trees. The education generally required for Urban and Community Foresters is a bachelor's degree in forestry, natural resources, or a related field. Some urban foresters, but not all, are also certified arborists. People who have good communication skills and enjoy engaging with different stakeholders might be especially suited for this role.

ASK THE EXPERTS



Rachel Ormseth
Urban and Community Forestry
Coordinator
South Dakota Department of
Agriculture

What is your favorite part of the job?

My favorite part of the job is getting to work directly with communities and my foresters. We have to work as a team to make everything come together and this definitely builds comradery.

Why urban and community forestry?

I actually was called by my college professor about applying for this job and I was not familiar with urban and community forestry (U&CF) but I am so glad I took the leap to apply. After getting the job I have met wonderful people, attended numerous great meetings, and grown as a professional through this job.



Heather McMullen
Urban and Community Forester
Hawai'i Department of Land and
Natural Resources, Division of Forestry
and Wildlife

What is your favorite part of the job?

Supporting the forest all around us (i.e. urban & community forests) has such importance to the health and wellbeing of our communities. I love knowing my job can make such an important impact.

Why urban and community forestry?

For me, U&CF integrates the two areas I love to work in – communities and the environment. These are really integrated systems and U&CF allows me to take a holistic approach to my work. I can nerd out on tree species, arboriculture or focus on community engagement and learning from community members. There is never a dull moment!



Photo Credit: Rachel Ormseth



Photo Credit: Heather McMullen